

Mandela: S. Africa violence caused by apartheid regime

BY GREG McCARTAN

The African National Congress, pressing ahead with the fight for the election of a Constituent Assembly in South Africa, said a "patriotic front" conference of anti-apartheid organizations will take place in Durban at the end of October.

The meeting comes amidst continued attacks on African National Congress supporters and random violence against Blacks in the country aimed at intimidating broader masses of people from entering into the revolutionary struggle to bring down the apartheid regime.

Thirty-three officials or prominent members of the ANC have been killed over the past three months in the violence. In addition some 100 Blacks have been killed since September 14 when a peace accord was signed by South African President F.W. de Klerk, ANC president Nelson Mandela, and head of the Inkatha Freedom Party Mangosuthu Buthelezi. In the accord the government had agreed to limit the security police's use of force against the regime's opponents.

A funeral for Sam Ntuli, an ANC supporter and leader of a community-based organization, was attacked by gunmen in early October. Twenty people were killed and two dozen wounded.

Following the attack Mandela said he had not imagined "that the government would willingly sacrifice the lives of thousands of South Africans through allowing the police and army to instigate township violence and pass it off as Black-on-Black violence."

"Evidence of involvement of police," he
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Militant/Ruth Haswell



Militant/Ruth Haswell



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Burned house and refugees who fled violence in Natal, South Africa. ANC president Nelson Mandela at right.

Farmers hold protests across Canada

BY JOE YOUNG

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — More than 7,000 angry farmers rallied here at the Manitoba provincial legislature on October 9. Colorful banners proclaimed: "Take a stand,

stay on the land"; "All we need is a fair share of the food dollar"; "Farmers feed the world but we can't afford to feed ourselves"; and "Wake up! Our politicians are driving up inflation and deficit and starving farmers." After the rally, the farmers marched behind a tractor through the streets of Winnipeg.

The rally was organized by Concerned Farmers, a loose group that sprang out of earlier protests organized in rural Manitoba. Some 1,400 farmers rallied in Miami, Manitoba, and 1,300 at Brandon.

Similar protests against the desperate situation farmers face have taken place recently in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario. More than 3,000 farmers attended a September rally in Rosetown, Saskatchewan, which was built largely by word of mouth.

Several farmers spoke at the Winnipeg rally. They included Jean Chretien, national

leader of the Liberal Party; Audrey McLaughlin, leader of the New Democratic Party; Charles Mayer, the federal grain and oil seeds minister; and Glen Finlay, Manitoba minister of agriculture.

The fact that the price of wheat now stands at \$2 a bushel, the same as 20 years ago, has devastated thousands of wheat farmers. All
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Mideast 'peace' conference set; Palestinians secure delegation

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

As U.S. secretary of state James Baker wound up his latest swing through Jordan, Syria, and Israel, the date for a Middle East "peace conference" was set for the end of October. The meeting will take place in Madrid, Spain.

Organized by the U.S. administration, the conference also has the formal sponsorship of the regime in the Soviet Union. Washington has been pressing for such a meeting since the end of the Gulf war, hoping to capitalize on its gains from a strengthened alignment with the Egyptian, Saudi, and Syrian regimes. These regimes joined in the U.S. military alliance and brutal assault against the Iraqi people.

These Arab governments, along with Jordan, have so far agreed to participate in the meeting. The conference will revolve around talks between Tel Aviv, Arab governments in the region, and Palestinians.

Faisal Hussein, a Palestinian spokesman from East Jerusalem, said on October 16 that the Palestinian delegation was being assembled.

The Israeli government has insisted that only Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza — also referred to as the occupied territories — come to the meeting, in a joint delegation with Jordan, and that no members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or residents of East Jerusalem take part. Israel annexed East Jerusalem, with an overwhelmingly Palestinian population, after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, and Zakaria al-Agha, three prominent Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza, have been negotiating with Baker over the peace talks.

The three Palestinians, joined by Sari Nusseibeh, held official talks with the State Department in Washington before Baker's recent Middle East trip. They sought assurances from Baker that the U.S. government would press Israel to end set-

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Imperialists tell Moscow to impose austerity measures against workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Leaders of the Group of Seven and representatives of the Soviet government were able to agree on at least one point during an October 12-13 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand — the Soviet economy is in bad shape and getting worse.

The governments of the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada, and Italy make up the Group of Seven. Their demands on a receptive Soviet delegation demonstrate the extent to which the imperialist powers must now take open responsibility for attacking the rights and standard of living of working people in the republics that make up the Soviet Union.

Heading up the Soviet delegation, Grigory Yavlinsky gave a bleak assessment to the meeting of the extent of the economic collapse in the USSR. He reported the Soviet economy is expected to shrink by 13 percent this year, industrial production by 9 percent, and farm production by 11 percent.

Imports have dropped 45 percent this year compared to the same period in 1990.

Exports have fallen 27 percent. Inflation has reached an annual rate of 96 percent.

The Soviet Union has an estimated \$70 billion foreign debt. A recent announcement that Soviet gold reserves are significantly smaller than previously believed surprised many of the union's creditors. The total gold reserves are now said to be 240 tons, less than the Soviet Union's annual gold production. "As much as 350 tons over a short period of time — six months" — has been transferred abroad, said Russian president Boris Yeltsin.

Disagreements broke out over two related questions during the Group of Seven meeting. The U.S. government is seeking to arrange an immediate postponement of Soviet debt payments to banks and governments in the coming months to ease the crisis.

But French and German officials oppose such a move. Germany, France, and Italy are the three main lenders to the Soviet Union. According to the French newspaper *Le Monde*, German banks and the German government have loaned about \$43.4 bil-

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Final push in 9-week sales campaign: reach out to fighters with socialist press

BY GREG McCARTAN

After keeping close to being on schedule for several weeks, the international circulation campaign is now behind 5 percent. This week's results show the importance of the October 19-26 sales blitz. Supporters in many cities will need to use every day through November 2 as a sales day to reach their goals.

Our first reports on the results of the target week indicate a big effort is under way to wind up the nine-week drive in full and on time. The goal is to win 6,200 new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'Internationaliste*, and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Teams of supporters in New York City sold 12 *Militant* subscriptions out of their Saturday goal of 15, the first target day. Six *New Internationals* were also sold from street tables and in working-class communities.

Supporters in Houston called in their results. With a goal of selling 20 *Militant* subscriptions in each of two weeks they wound up the first week with 23 sold! "We're selling a lot by going back and talking with people who want to read one issue before they purchase a subscription," Kathleen Fitzgerald said. Ten *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and 9 copies of *New International* have also been sold.

Due to slowness of the mail not all of the subscriptions sent in from Des Moines have

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French and Belgian troops out of Zaire!

The following is a statement by the Communist Organizing Committee in France. It was issued after the French government sent troops to Zaire in late September. Transported by U.S. military planes, French and Belgian troops helped quell a revolt that began September 23 against the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko.

Some months after the Gulf war the French government has once again sent its troops to intervene abroad. The reason is the same — to defend its imperialist interests. One thousand French soldiers and as many Belgian soldiers have been sent to Zaire to occupy the main cities of the country. The United States helped transport these troops.

Zairian workers and peasants are victims of capitalism

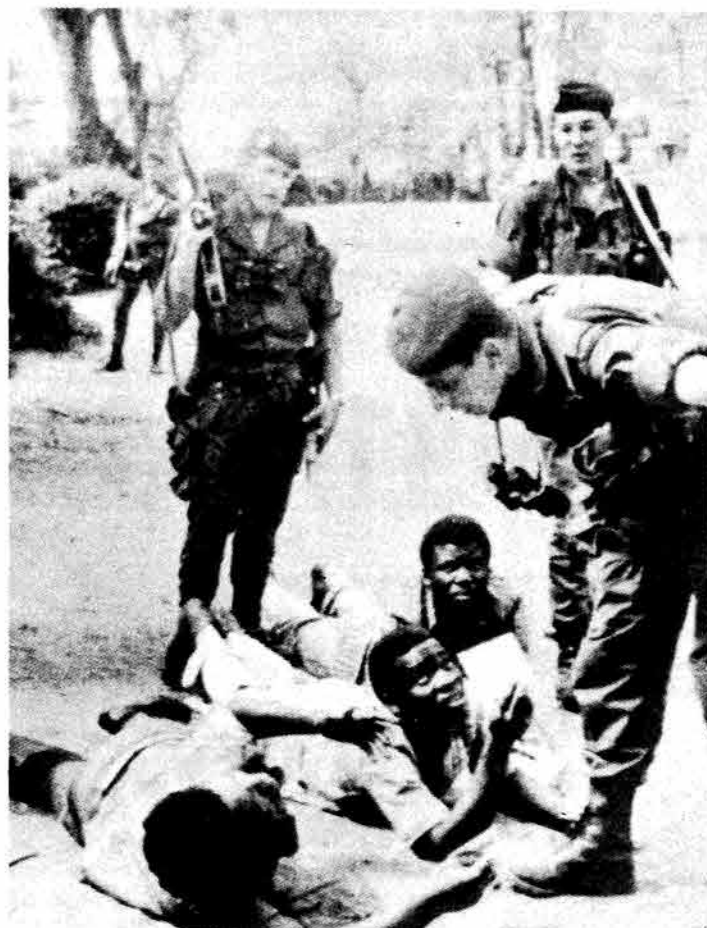
More and more every day, capitalism is showing its hideous and revolting face. In Zaire, thousands of starving people are driven to looting simply so they can eat. Yet, Zaire is one of Africa's richest countries. Some call it the "treasure house of the continent." It is the world's foremost producer of cobalt, the sixth biggest producer of copper, the second largest source of diamonds, and a major gold-producing country.

All this wealth is exploited by large Belgian, French, or South African companies such as the Société Générale de Belgique, Crédit Lyonnais, and De Beers. The profits from the exploitation of mining and agricultural resources go straight to the coffers of a few major capitalist families in Europe and Zaire.

The IMF and the Zairian capitalists work hand-in-hand

In early September the world's big bankers of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stopped granting loans to Zaire, which is being crushed by an almost \$10 billion debt. They decided harsh enough measures had not been taken to reduce inflation (1000 percent this year).

For them and for the Zairian bourgeoisie the solution is simple: to pay the debt without



French paratroopers in Zaire during 1978 intervention. France has repeatedly sent troops to former African colonies.

touching the profits of Zairian capitalists, social spending and the state budget must be cut. The government of Zaire had decided as a first step to cut pay for rank-and-file soldiers to \$4.60 (90,000 Zaires) for the month of September. A single bag of manioc, a basic food, costs 170,000 Zaires!

Decades of Belgian and French military intervention

When the Congo won its independence in 1960, the party of revolutionary leader Patrice Lumumba easily won the first free elections held in the country. Then Bel-

gium intervened to overthrow the new government and cowardly murdered Lumumba. Mobutu came to power in 1965 with the approval of France and Belgium. This regime is a dictatorship that has carried out repression and political assassinations for almost 30 years.

Since the African countries won their independence, the imperialist powers — particularly France — have not ceased intervening militarily, while always professing so-called humanitarian motives. They often also use the argument of defending or re-establishing "democracy."

In fact, Belgium and France can no longer openly back Mobutu because millions of Zairian workers and peasants are struggling more and more

openly against his regime. But whether General Mobutu remains in power or is replaced by his "opponent" Etienne Tshisekedi (who was previously his interior minister), all these capitalist politicians are there for the same thing: to protect their profits and their privileges as well as those of imperialism.

The list of French interventions in Africa is very long: the 1962 French intervention in Senegal to prevent the overthrow of Senghor; Operation "Manta" in 1983 and Operation "Epervier" in 1986 in Chad; the sending of French and Belgian troops to Zaire in 1960, 1964, 1977, 1978, and 1991. These interventions have all led to the massacre of dozens, hundreds, or thousands of African workers and peasants who are our brothers and sisters. On September 26 Mobutu's special repressive forces (the DSP) murdered dozens of demonstrators under the approving eye of the French army.

Capitalism will lead us to more and more wars

The October 1987 world stock market crash announced the coming of an unprecedented economic and social crisis. It is the workers and peasants throughout the world, from Zaire to France, who will pay for this crisis. In Third World countries the social crisis has already taken on tragic proportions.

To defend their privileges and their power the imperialists, faced with the growing resistance by workers and peasants, will more and more use their armies throughout the world to try to crush us. At the same time conflicts between the major imperialist powers are deepening as their markets shrink. In the case of Zaire, France took advantage of Belgium's hesitations to intervene with the aim of increasing its weight a little more in that country.

This barbaric system must be fought!

The Gulf war — in which 200,000 Iraqi men, women, and children were massacred in cold blood — and the intervention in Zaire reflect not the birth of a "new world order" but rather the death agony of the imperialist order, which the capitalists of the world want to save at all cost. This barbaric system must be fought!

The Communist Organizing Committee demands:

French and Belgian troops out of Zaire!
Stop French intervention in Africa!
Cancel Zaire's debt!



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Michigan throws 80,000 off welfare

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Claiming a need to deal with its budget deficit, the state of Michigan has ended its general welfare assistance program, throwing more than 80,000 of the state's poorest adults off the rolls. This move is expected to save the state \$240 million.

"I'm poor, very poor," stated Ruth Williams, a middle-aged grandmother who has asthma, high blood pressure and phlebitis. Up until October 2 she had received \$175 a month from welfare. "The check wasn't much, but it gave me a chance to feel like a human being."

Forty-six percent of Michigan's general assistance recipients were women, many in their 40s and 50s. Many were workers who

had lost their jobs and exhausted all unemployment benefits. Michigan's official unemployment rate is 9.7 percent, some 400,000 workers.

Michigan is one of a growing number of states that, in response to their fiscal crises, are eliminating general assistance welfare programs. Maryland plans to cut 24,000 adults off its program in November. Six other states — Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Louisiana — have also ended similar programs.

"I'm going to pray," stated Ruth Williams. "I'm also going to fight back. I'm willing to go to jail over and over until we get treated right. G.A. [general assistance] was all we had to get by."

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5,000 in U.S. capital: No to Haiti coup

BY KATY LeROUGETEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Haitians from across the East Coast and Montreal converged on Washington, D.C., October 18. Many of the 5,000 demonstrators had travelled for ten hours from Miami.

They were there to protest the coup d'état against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's government in Haiti. On September 30, Brig. Gen. Raoul Cedras headed a military overthrow of the government elected in December 1990. Aristide is presently exiled in Venezuela.

Due to severe repression under a series of dictatorial regimes and harsh economic conditions hundreds of thousands of Haitians have emigrated abroad. Since the coup mass rallies have occurred on an almost daily basis in New York, Miami, Boston, and other cities.

Signs, both printed and hand-lettered, dotted the march and rally, reading "Aristide, the people's choice"; "Democracy or Death"; "Aristide will return to Haiti with no preconditions"; and "Titid (Aristide) must return 'by any means necessary'".

Washington and the Organization of American States (OAS) have pressed Aristide to accept limits on the power of the president and other concessions as a condition for support for his return to power. At Aristide's urging the OAS, of which the U.S. government is a member, has called for an economic embargo of Haiti until the military government steps down.

As at other rallies, marchers here expressed a range of opinions as to the cause of the coup. Many explained to this reporter that they felt both the OAS and U.S. President George Bush backed the coup and were not working for Aristide's reinstatement.

Several speakers addressed the rally culminating the march.

Laurie Richardson from Campaign for Peace said, "We learned about Nicaragua and now the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide's government has opened our minds and hearts to the struggle of the people of Haiti."

Farah Juste, a Haitian actress, contrasted Aristide's stated program of funding schools, hospitals and job creation for the poor with

"the \$40 million the bourgeoisie [in Haiti] gave to destroy democracy." This was a reference to monies paid by ruling families to Cedras to finance Aristide's overthrow.

"The army is married to the bourgeoisie," she said. "We need an alternative strategy. You can only fight fire with fire."

The New York consul general of Haiti, Philippe Wilson Désir, thanked the consuls from cities such as Chicago and Boston for having helped organize transport from their areas to Washington and stressed the presence of marchers from a number of cities. He called for continuing actions and for "shifting gears" to increase the fight.

Bishop Sullivan spoke as President of Pax Christi, a Catholic peace group, standing "in solidarity with the struggle for justice of the people of Haiti."

In Montreal daily demonstrations against the coup have ranged in size from 100 to 6,000 in front of the federal government building.

The protests have shifted their focus to demanding the Canadian, U.S., and Dominican Republic governments implement the embargo resolution adopted by the OAS.

There are a growing number of Québécois attending the protests. One of the most popular chants at the regular Saturday demonstration October 19 was, "Québécois, Canadians, solidarity!"



Oct. 18 protest in Washington, D.C., against overthrow of Haitian president Aristide. Militant/Margrethe Siem

Fund meetings become 'place to be' to discuss socialism, world politics

As we go to press: Over \$5,300 was collected at Party-Building Fund meetings held October 19 in Chicago, Des Moines, Newark, Philadelphia, and the Twin Cities. This is a boost toward getting the drive on schedule by November 1. Figures on next week's scoreboard will reflect these contributions. Fund meetings will take place October 26 and 27 in Atlanta, Boston, Birmingham, Detroit, Greensboro, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

Meetings across the country to raise money for the \$150,000 Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund are becoming the place to be for workers, farmers, and youth who want to discuss world politics today. As advertised on page 12 of this issue, some of the talks will explain the crisis of world capitalism, Stalinism, and the fight for socialism. Others will focus on the challenges facing the Cuban revolution and the fight for independent working-class political action. The fund can be put on schedule in each city by November if supporters go all out to organize and build these political events.

Meetings held so far have proven important political gatherings, where leaders of the Socialist Workers Party have responded to questions concerning political developments throughout the world. To whet readers' appetite for what they can participate in at these meetings we'll mention just some of the

questions raised so far:

Didn't the Soviet workers defeat the coup because they support Boris Yeltsin? How can the defeat of the coup be described as a victory for working people if Gorbachev and Yeltsin are still in power? Will every Communist Party and revolution turn out the way they did in the Soviet Union?

What are the chances of capitalism being restored in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe? What is the balance sheet on the reunification of Germany — why aren't things turning out to be a boon for the German rulers as many had predicted earlier?

Other questions have been asked about whether Cuba can survive with diminished and less favorable trade relations with the Soviet Union. Isn't it just a matter of time before the Cuban government will face the same crisis as the government in the Soviet Union?

Some questions concerned the political developments in U.S. politics, in particular

1991 Party-Building Fund

Collected: \$60,629.86 Goal: \$150,000



the significance of the right-wing offensive against abortion rights in Wichita, Kansas.

These broad political discussions are essential to gaining the political clarity fighters need today. The SWP leaders present a communist perspective on the world that poses the real opportunities for building the working-class leadership needed in the struggle for a workers' and farmers' government.

This week five cities are on schedule in the fund drive. They are leading the way to get the entire national drive on schedule by November. In Atlanta — at the top of the chart this week — fund supporters got a big boost when an auto worker contributed a \$500 bonus.

Atlanta fund director Adjua Adams reports that supporters plan to get well ahead in the drive after their October 26 meeting featuring Luis Madrid, editor of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. Supporters have sent out a press release for the meeting and are building the event among unionists at several workplaces. Fund supporters are also working with students to set up campus meetings for Madrid.

Detroit and San Francisco supporters have

plans to come out of their fund meeting ahead of schedule. They report that regular weekly collections, organized to get all contributors on schedule, have put them in the position to try to displace Atlanta from the top of the chart soon.

Payments received total more than \$60,500 so far. This means nearly \$100,000 more must be collected by December 15. Getting the drive on schedule now will help ensure fund pledges are collected in full, which would put us 6 percent over the \$150,000 goal.

Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Atlanta	5,500	3,076	60%
Greensboro*	2,300	1,285	56%
New York	16,300	9,001	55%
San Francisco	10,000	5,449	54%
Detroit	8,500	4,545	53%
Houston	4,800	2,305	48%
Omaha	3,000	1,265	42%
Pittsburgh	5,500	2,265	41%
Chicago	8,000	3,242	41%
Newark	9,700	3,845	40%
Miami	2,400	926	39%
St. Louis	5,500	1,860	34%
Salt Lake City	6,500	2,150	33%
Washington, D.C.	6,000	1,940	32%
Seattle	5,000	1,516	30%
Boston*	5,500	1,605	29%
Philadelphia	5,000	1,395	28%
Birmingham	5,500	1,480	27%
Twin Cities	8,300	2,286	27%
Morgantown	2,800	645	23%
Los Angeles	15,000	2,790	19%
San Diego	2,000	340	17%
Baltimore	3,000	355	12%
Des Moines	3,525	400	11%
Cleveland	3,000	195	6%
Other U.S.	4,815	4,228	88%
International	2,130	240	11%
Total	159,570	60,629	40%
Should be		79,411	53%

*Indicates raised goal

I pledge: \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Send checks or money orders to Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



Militant/Susan Lamont

Jean-Bertrand Aristide

McDonnell Douglas workers protest company walkout of negotiations

BY KEVIN JONES AND CAROLE LESNICK

LONG BEACH, California — Workers at McDonnell Douglas recently held an informational picket line in front of the company's offices here. The 20,000 union members at this aircraft assembly plant are organized by United Auto and Aerospace Workers Union (UAW) Local 148.

Carrying picket signs reading, "No to Company Greed!", "For a Fair Contract!", and "Solidarity for #148," several hundred union members protested the company's decision to walk out of the last round of contract negotiations in July. The workforce has been without a contract for five months. The union and the company have been operating under a day-to-day extension of the old contract.

Last March union members rejected the company's first offer by an 88 percent margin. National representatives from the UAW

as well as a majority of the local contract bargaining committee recommended a "yes" vote. Workers opposed a "non-standard" workweek requiring some to work on Saturdays and Sundays with other days off and increases in medical copayments for future retirees that would take most of their monthly pension check. Most were disappointed with the small wage increases offered compared with what workers at other Douglas plants had received in their contracts. Faced with overwhelming opposition, a majority of the bargaining committee withdrew their support for the contract.

The same take-back contract offer was rejected for a second time in April by a 70 percent margin. Most recently, the company walked out of contract negotiations, using the pretext that the local's president refused to call for a vote on a tentative contract proposal within three days.

What course for labor movement today?

How prior union upsurges headed toward break with parties of big business

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

(Third in a series)

For the past decade and a half working people and the trade unions have been the target of an offensive by the employers and their government. This has highlighted the need for the labor movement to chart a course of independent working-class political action, breaking from its practice of collaboration with the employers and dependence on the political parties of the ruling rich.

Working people face a world where the economic crisis of capitalism threatens to become a worldwide depression and where the billionaire ruling families will drag humanity into more wars to hold together their declining system. A necessary step to confront these twin disasters is the revitalization and transformation of the trade unions into instruments of the mobilized rank and file that can effectively defend the democratic rights and standard of living of all working people. This will also open the possibility of forging political organizations of the working class capable of taking on the capitalists as a class in the fight for political power.

Two previous articles in the *Militant* discussed the proposal by the National Organization for Women to form an "independent political party" and the decision by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union to support "Labor Party Advocates." Neither perspective, the articles showed, is a step toward independent working-class political action.

Both proposals are a response by the petty-bourgeois leaderships of these organizations to the bipartisan attacks on democratic rights and economic gains won by working people. Both remain entirely within the capitalist political framework; neither even poses a complete break within bourgeois politics from the Democratic Party.

The employers' drive to make working people pay for the crisis of their system inevitably evokes a response — strikes, walkouts, new union organization, social protest movements, and struggles by working farmers. Signs of this initial resistance are evident in fights waged by miners, airline workers, packinghouse workers, and others, over the past several years.

As the battles deepen and spread, working people will seek to build independent economic and political organizations — revolutionary instruments to advance their struggles against the rich and their government. Out of this kind of social upheaval a communist party will also be constructed, composed of the most consistent, tested, and politically advanced detachments among the vanguard fighters in the working class.



Sitdown strike in Flint, Michigan. Battles in the 1930s built the Congress of Industrial Organizations, giving the labor movement new organized strength.

The historic interests of the working class lie in the fight to gain governmental power, form a workers' and farmers' government, and join the world struggle for socialism. Valuable lessons from previous chapters of U.S. labor history show how workers, in the midst of massive strikes and political battles, began to advance along this course.

Farrell Dobbs, one of the outstanding communist leaders of labor battles in the United States in the 1930s drew the lessons of these struggles in a two-volume series entitled *Revolutionary Continuity*.

Some of the major experiences described by Dobbs in these books include "(1) the fight for the economic organization of the working class into trade unions, and for organization along industrial rather than craft lines; (2) the fight for political and social consciousness and action by the workers' movement; (3) and the fight for the independent political organization of the working class, a labor party, to advance its interests and those of its allies against the interests of the ruling capitalist minority."

The years 1884-86 were a period of labor upsurge in the United States, with large numbers of both native-born and foreign-born workers joining trade unions. From July 1885 to October 1886 membership in the Knights of Labor, one of the main labor organizations at that time, jumped from 110,000 to more

than 700,000.

A series of strikes by workers, meat-packers, and others erupted over economic demands. In early 1886, this conflict took on a political character with the emergence of a massive strike wave demanding an eight-hour day. In this fight, workers as a class began pressing political demands, not just against individual employers, but against the capitalists as a class.

By the fall of 1886, unions began to take this fight into the political arena with the formation of labor parties that fielded candidates for office in industrial centers throughout the United States.

A major campaign for mayor of New York City was undertaken by a labor party jointly organized by the Knights of Labor, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, and the Socialist Labor Party (SLP).

Marxists organized in the SLP played an important role in launching this endeavor. Henry George was chosen as the party's candidate for mayor. George was the leader of a petty-bourgeois current that advocated a single tax on land aimed at eliminating private land ownership.

This "single tax" scheme ignored the problem of the exploitation of labor by industrial and finance capital stemming from private ownership of the means of production. Socialists nonetheless supported this campaign because it represented an important step by labor into the political arena as an independent class force.

The George campaign, which won 31 percent of the vote, had a big impact. It stimulated other labor party campaigns around the nation, including Congressional campaigns in 14 states and municipal tickets in 20 cities.

Constitution of workers as party

Frederick Engels, long-time collaborator of Karl Marx, noted the significance of these moves toward independent labor political action in a Nov. 29, 1886, letter to U.S. Marxist leader Friedrich Sorge.

"The first great step of importance for every country newly entering into the movement is always the constitution of the workers as an independent political party," wrote Engels. "And this step has been taken, much more rapidly than we had a right to expect, and that is the main thing. That the first program of this party is still confused and extremely deficient, that it has raised the banner of Henry George, these are unavoidable evils but also merely transitory ones."

"The masses must have time and opportunity to develop, and they can have the opportunity only when they have a movement of their own — no matter in what form so long as it is their own movement," concluded Engels.

Within the next year, however, middle class forces attracted to George's "single tax" scheme consolidated their hold on the leadership of the New York party. They quashed opposition by expelling SLP members and led the party away from continuing to advance working class demands. A similar process occurred in other labor parties around the country. Labor's misplaced reliance on

petty-bourgeois leaderships in the electoral sphere had halted this promising organization of an independent political class force.

The decline of these labor parties coincided with a dramatic loss in membership by the Knights of Labor union organization. From mid-1886 to 1888 almost 500,000 workers left the organization.

New opportunities to advance independent working-class politics arose following World War I. Workers, who had suffered under labor officials' no-strike pledge during the war, demanded an eight-hour day, better working conditions, and pay hikes to catch up with rising living costs. The employers' rejection of these demands triggered a nationwide strike wave on a scale never before seen in the United States.

In February 1919, textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and copper miners in Butte, Montana, walked out. They were joined by a general strike in Seattle, Washington. In September, 365,000 steelworkers in 50 cities across 10 states launched a nationwide strike. On November 1, 500,000 miners struck, demanding a six-hour workday and five-day workweek.

Workers' militancy was heightened by the 1917 victory of the Russian revolution, where a workers' and peasants' government under the leadership of the Bolsheviks had come to power.

Labor action spreads across country

These battles once again created opportunities for workers to make important advances as a class in the political arena.

A Farmer-Labor Party had been launched in 1918 in Minnesota. That same year a militant machinists' strike in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, munitions plant led workers there to enter politics. On September 6, 1918, while World War I was still on, these workers formed the American Labor Party "as an instrument of industrial emancipation."

Before the year was out, moves toward labor independent political action had spread to 45 cities. "This labor... thing... is breaking out in many places," complained Frank Walsh, former chairman of the War Labor Board, at the end of 1918.

The 1919 convention of the United Mine Workers of America unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the organization of a national labor party. The resolution stated, "The need of the times so far as labor is concerned is to organize our forces... and we feel that this can be accomplished only by the organization of a labor party that will be representative of and under the control of the workers."

At the end of November 1919, a national labor party was launched by union militants from some forty states at a convention organized by the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL). The CFL had taken the lead in forming the Cook County Labor Party in Illinois, which ran CFL leader John Fitzpatrick for mayor of Chicago.

A second national convention held in Chicago in July 1920 changed the organization's name to the Farmer-Labor Party and launched a campaign for president, with Parley Christensen from Utah as the party's candidate. The main theme of this campaign was the need for independent labor political action in opposition to both the Democratic and Republican parties. This struck a chord among class conscious workers. Some 265,000 toilers cast their vote for Christensen.

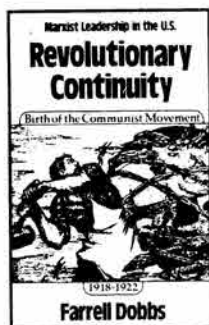
Writing in *Revolutionary Continuity*, Dobbs explained the communist perspective on how to move this fight forward.

"To be successful such a movement had to be an anticapitalist alliance between two exploited classes, not a bloc — sometimes called a two-class party — between the workers, on the one hand, and the bosses or their petty-bourgeois political agents, on the other. For effective political collaboration between organized labor and the working farmers, the wage workers had to take the lead, organizing a party with a working-class program; a party based upon and led by the trade unions; a party that reached out to involve all workers and their toiling allies."

"It was necessary to politically organize the exploited independent from the parties of the exploiters and impart dynamism to an anticapitalist alliance with the working farm-

Continued on Page 13

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Mobilizations defend right to abortion

From young fighters in Boston...

BY LISA AHLBERG

BOSTON — In the face of plans by the right-wing outfit Operation Rescue to mobilize November 2 to try to close women's health clinics that provide abortion here, supporters of abortion rights are organizing a countermobilization.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has called on supporters of women's right to choose to turn out to defend the clinics. In a leaflet being widely distributed, they explain, "We say, No Wichita in Boston! Pro-choice activists will be at the clinics Nov. 2 making sure that women have access to abortion services and making it clear that we will not let the anti-abortion terrorism of fanatics in 'Operation Rescue' deny women our rights."

Many young people are coming forward to answer the appeal to defend abortion rights.

Among the most active of these forces are young women and men at Boston University. On October 3, the newly formed Abortion and Reproductive Rights Coalition on campus held a rally in defense of abortion rights that attracted more than 200 people. Many more students stopped briefly to join the rally.

Evan Fein, coalition leader and member of the Young Socialist Alliance, chaired the rally. Referring to Operation Rescue's intentions to shut down area clinics, he said, "A few weeks ago they invaded Wichita to prevent women from controlling their bodies. Local, state, and federal governments have all joined in the attempt to curtail the rights of women to control their bodies."

"The most important thing defenders of women's right to choose abortion can do," he continued, "is to mobilize — in the streets, in the schools, and at the clinics — to show the overwhelming support that exists for abortion and reproductive rights."

Close to 30 students attend the weekly meetings at Boston University. They plan to hold a slide show presentation on the lessons of Wichita to help build participa-

tion in the countermobilization at the clinics on November 2.

Also on October 3, a demonstration was held downtown at Government Center here to mark "Rosie Jimenez Day." Jimenez was a young working-class Chicana who was the first woman known to die from an illegal abortion after Congress cut off Medicaid funding for abortion.

The spirited protest of close to 300, called by NOW, attracted many young women from colleges in the area as well as young working women.

In response to the charges of sexual harassment against now-Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, additional protests took place. On Saturday, October 12, NOW held a speak-out on the Boston Common against the Thomas nomination focusing on the issue of sexual harassment. Just prior to the confirmation, several hundred rallied downtown October 15.

Many defenders of women's rights take seriously the November 2 challenge posed by Operation Rescue. Pro-choice forces

... to new actions in Wichita...

BY TED LEONARD

WICHITA — In the largest turnout of prochoice forces at an abortion clinic here, 80 supporters of a woman's right to choose rallied October 19 to keep the Wichita Women's Center open. Leaders of the ultrarightist Wichita Rescue Movement had announced plans for a major action the same day called "Gideon 300 Rescue."

Defense of the abortion clinic began the night before when 75 supporters gathered in the clinic's parking lot singing, chanting, and forming a giant human hanger. Colleen Kelly Johnston, president of the National Organization for Women's Wichita chapter, spoke at a press conference, sponsored by Voices For Choice, which publicized the event. She told the *Wichita Eagle*, "The coat hanger has become a symbol of what women used to have to go through to have an abortion. We do not intend to return to the days when women die every day because of botched abortions." Voices for Choice is a coalition comprised of 24 groups that support abortion rights.

Following the evening rally about 15 supporters spent the night in the clinic.

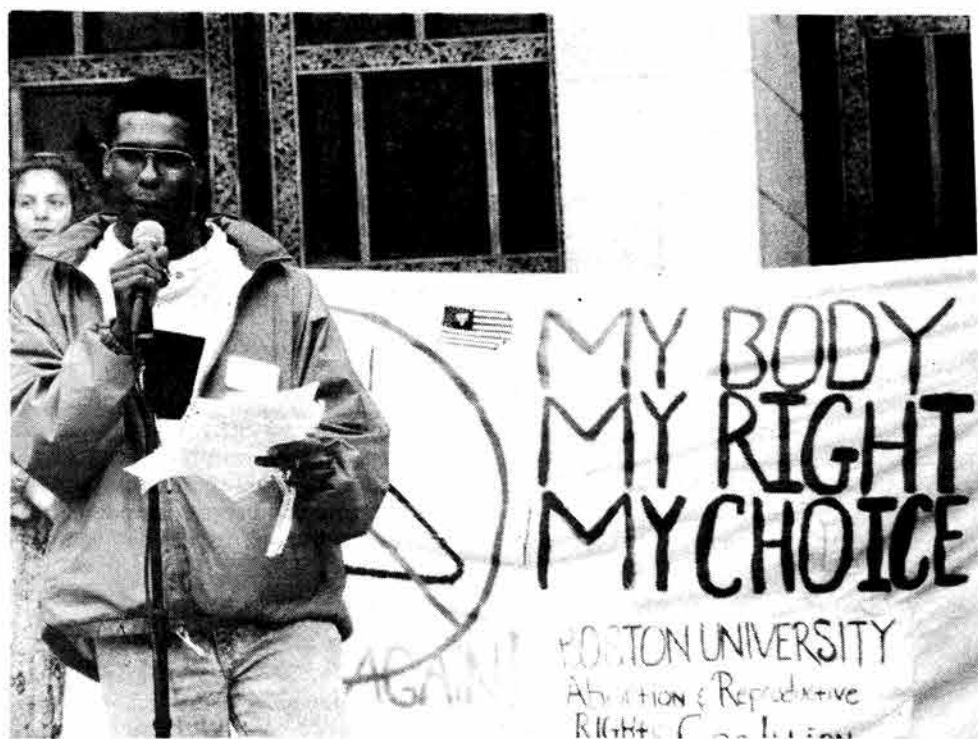
Chanting, "racist, sexist, anti-gay, born-again bigots go away," and "not the church, not the state, women will control their fate," pro-choice supporters formed a tight picket line around part of the clinic Saturday morning. The 40 ultrarightists picketing the clinic never attempted to blockade the building.

Many of those who participated were pleased with the large turnout at the clinic. During Operation Rescue's 1991 "Summer of Mercy" campaign to close the clinics down, 2,657 rightists were arrested. No countermobilizations of supporters of choice were ever organized at the clinics.

Operation Rescue leader Pat Mahoney, from Boca Raton, Florida, announced his candidacy for U.S. President within the Democratic Party at a rally of 100 October 19. Mahoney spent 50 days in Wichita during the "Summer of Mercy." He was arrested three times on federal contempt-of-court charges for violating U.S. district judge Patrick Kelly's order that prohibits blocking or encouraging blocking access to clinics here. He spent 14 days in jail.

Agitating his rally goes to become involved in ongoing antiabortion actions, Mahoney declared, "We're going to change the face of American politics" and pointed to the "Summer of Mercy" mobilizations as the way to do it. While addressing a wide range of issues from foreign policy to social security, his main emphasis was rediscovering "middle-American values" and the role of the family.

Earlier that day Mahoney led a "Freedom March" of 125 rightists through downtown. They held a brief rally at the U.S. federal courthouse calling for the 13 rightists still in jail for violating Judge Kelly's injunction to



Neil Callender of the Young Socialist Alliance speaks at Boston rally October 3

are not the only ones who have been organizing.

On October 6, 25,000 opponents of abortion marched through the streets of Boston. Led by Cardinal Bernard Law, an outspoken opponent of women's right to control their own bodies, they rallied to oppose legislation

be freed. The marchers also condemned Judge Kelly's arrest of Operation Rescue's national leader Joe Slovenec two weeks earlier. Mahoney said that Slovenec was "a minister arrested at the airport for coming to Wichita to preach the gospel" and that Judge Kelly was "restricting our right to free speech."

Slovenec was jailed for violating Judge Kelly's order to sign a \$100,000 "peace bond" to cover potential damages incurred from his activities before returning to Wichita. A week later a federal court temporarily stayed Judge Kelly's order and freed Slovenec.

Reacting to Slovenec's arrest in the *Wichita Eagle* Peggy Jarman, spokesperson for the Pro-Choice Action League, said, "I love it. it's obvious he was brought in here to stir things up and increase their numbers."

Colleen Kelly Johnston commented in the *Wichita Eagle* on Slovenec's release that it was "very disappointing." "This will mean that they can go ahead and come into town and make speeches. I imagine that it will be seen as a preliminary vindication of their actions."

In an interview Cynthia Killion, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Freedom of Choice Action League, said the "'peace bond' does not help working people or defenders of democratic rights. It is not a weapon we can use in our struggle, but rather something the employers, their government, and their courts can turn against striking workers or others involved in social protests. It is not the 'peace bond' that is going to keep Operation Rescue and other rightists out of Wichita. It will be the mobilizations of working people and youth that will politically isolate them and let them know their actions against women's rights will not be tolerated."

... to rally at Minnesota state capitol

BY KIMBERLEY WASHINGTON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Three hundred people rallied at the state capital here October 12 to urge that a proposed family planning gag rule be defeated and to protest recent attacks on abortion rights in Minnesota and throughout the United States.

The rally was sponsored by the Abortion Rights Council (ARC) and the Twin Cities chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

Seven speakers addressed the rally including Minnesota Senators Paul David Wellstone and Nancy Brataas. Both Senators urged people to rely on voting to keep the right to abortion. Wellstone also told rally participants that he would vote against Judge Clarence Thomas's nomination in the October 15 vote.

proposed by Massachusetts Governor William Weld that would lower the age at which a young woman must obtain her parent's consent to have an abortion from 18 years old to 16 years old.

Participants in the march arrived in cars and buses from all over the state. Numerous protesters said they were participating in their first antiabortion protests, according to the *Boston Globe*. They marched, singing, "All we are saying is give life a chance" and cried, "Pro-choice is pre-death!"

Weld's bill would also prohibit antiabortion demonstrators from blocking the doors of clinics where abortions are performed, a key tactic used by Operation Rescue. Operation Rescue had a booth at the site of the rally.

Prospects for an effective countermobilization on November 2 are promising. Students from as far away as Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, have pledged to fill two busloads.

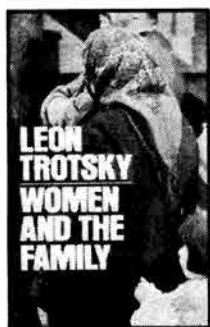
Margo Storsteen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston, is a prominent participant in building for the November 2 countermobilization. A veteran of previous clinic defense efforts, and also a member of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 274, Storsteen is appealing to all defenders of democratic rights and to working people and youth especially, to recognize the threat posed by Operation Rescue and its right-wing street actions.

"In the face of recent experience in Wichita, any new offensives by ultrarightists should be answered immediately," Storsteen explains in a campaign statement being distributed by supporters here.

"Broad mobilizations of the labor movement and its allies must be organized and mobilized against them. The widespread sentiment against the rightists among working people and youth in Wichita and elsewhere shows the potential for such a course. This is the only road toward blocking the advances made by such rightist offensives and toward strengthening the labor movement."

For more information on the November 2 countermobilization at the clinics, call NOW at (617) 782-1056.

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New U.S. law maintains blacklist

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

For decades Washington has denied U.S. entry visas to people solely on the grounds of holding ideas disliked by the government. While Congress recently adopted legislation requiring the removal of some 300,000 names from these secret lists, not only are the lists still in use, but thousands of names continue to be added to them.

"One of the last vestiges of the McCarthy era is truly being swept away," Rep. Howard Berman, a leading sponsor of the bill, claimed as the legislation was being voted on. The measure, supported by the administration of President George Bush and approved by the Senate in June, was adopted

September 24. It gives the State Department three years to purge from its blacklist many of those it has barred from entering the United States as "ideologically unacceptable" since the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act in 1952.

Under this act the government has denied entry to the United States to such noted authors as Gabriel García Márquez and Graham Greene; French actor Yves Montand; Italian playwright Dario Fo; political leaders including Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua, and Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization; and countless individuals considered to hold "subversive" ideas or suspected of member-

ship in left-wing organizations.

Many in ruling-class circles had come to consider the sweeping character of the exclusions a political embarrassment. "We're not afraid of people with ideas," declared Senator Daniel Moynihan, another sponsor of the measure.

Secret list

Last year a law was passed enabling those on the list to apply to have their names removed. But thousands were unaware that they were even on the list, and why. The new measure requires the State Department to remove names that are on the secret list solely on account of a person's views.

The State Department maintains the names on its "Automated Visa Lookout System," which largely overlaps with a similar computerized system operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Despite laws passed in 1987 and 1988 suspending use of the ideological provisions in the law, and a 1990 law prohibiting the State Department from excluding visitors on ideological grounds alone, the department continued to maintain the list.

Some 68,000 names have been added to the list under the Bush administration alone according to the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. The organization obtained the lists under the Freedom of Information Act. The committee reported the lists bar 310,859 persons from the United States on purely ideological grounds. Others are barred on the accusation of being "terrorists" or drug dealers.

Even if large numbers of names are removed from the blacklist, the law still allows the denial of visas to people who are alleged to be members of communist or totalitarian parties. And if the secretary of state decrees that someone's admission "would have potential serious adverse foreign policy consequences," this too is grounds for exclusion. The continuing list will also include some 40,000 who have sought permanent residence in the United States, a category not covered by the latest reform.

Debate over how to keep out immigrants

In another development, an immigration law reform measure was introduced to repeal sanctions against employers who hire illegal immigrants. The bill's joint sponsors — Sen. Orrin Hatch, a prominent conservative; and Sen. Edward Kennedy, a liberal Democrat — said that the 1986 law requiring employers to verify that workers are not illegal immigrants tended to result in discrimination against U.S. citizens of Asian and Hispanic origin. Employers had reacted to the law by avoiding hiring people who looked foreign-born, they said.

Forces including the Bush administration and the AFL-CIO stated their opposition to the proposed reform, as did the *New York Times*, which approvingly explained that the goal of the 1986 law was to discourage immigration. The *Times* advocated "education of employers" as the way to avoid discrimination by bosses in hiring practices.

Together with their reform proposal, Kennedy and Hatch urged almost doubling the size of the border patrol as an alternative means of keeping immigrants out of the United States.

Mideast talks set for late October

Continued from front page
tlements in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian leaders traveled to Amman, Jordan, October 15 to discuss the character of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference. These negotiations unfolded with speed after the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, gave the green light to Palestinian participation in the upcoming conference.

Ashrawi had met with Baker in Amman before the PNC session, representing the PLO leadership. She pressed the PLO's positions that Israel stop building settlements in the occupied territories and that the U.S. government recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination by the beginning of the conference. "Only the PLO and the Palestinian people" have the right to form the Palestinian delegation, Ashrawi stated.

The PNC "welcomes current peace efforts... including the call by presidents [George] Bush and [Mikhail] Gorbachev for the convening of the special conference on the Middle East conflict," said the final statement adopted by the 20th PNC session in Algiers, September 28.

The PNC statement, which reiterated earlier PLO demands, was approved by a vote of 256-68. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) opposed it. Other Palestinian groups such as Abu Musa's Fatah Movement, based in Syria, have declared their opposition to any Palestinian participation at the conference. So has the Islamic Resistance Movement — popularly known as Hamas, which has a sizeable following in Gaza.

According to a report by Tunisian Republic Radio, Hussein and Ashrawi addressed the PNC meeting in Algiers.

The two Palestinian leaders campaigned for participation at the peace conference as it became increasingly evident it would occur. They have sought Palestinian participation on the best terms possible while placing demands on Washington and Tel Aviv that help advance the Palestinian cause. Refusal to take part in the conference, as others in the PLO have argued, would further isolate the Palestinians internationally in their struggle for self-determination.

After the PLO meeting in Algiers ended, Ashrawi and Hussein were called in for interrogation by the Israeli police October 8. They were accused of violating a 1986 law forbidding contact with the PLO, labeled terrorist by Israeli authorities. The Palestinian leaders denied having attended the Algiers meeting.

The Israeli authorities decided not to pursue the matter. "Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is not interested in a confrontation with the United States," said the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, "which may develop if the two are detained."

Israeli attacks on Palestinians

Meanwhile Israeli authorities have stepped up repression against Palestinians. An Israeli military court gave a life sentence October 16 to Sheik Ahmed Yassin, a 53-year-old quadriplegic, who is a founder of Hamas. A 19-year-old Palestinian was shot and wounded during clashes with the Israeli army in Gaza City following the court sentence.

During the week of the PNC meeting Israeli soldiers shot and killed four Palestinians and injured several others. That brought the death toll from Israeli bullets to 993 since the Palestinian revolt known as the *intifada* began in 1987.

On October 9 a group of armed Israeli settlers occupied the houses of seven Pales-



Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (left) and U.S. secretary of state James Baker.

tinian families in East Jerusalem. While police forced most settlers to leave, one house is still occupied by four rightist Israeli members of Parliament.

"Jews have a right to settle anywhere in the city," said housing minister Ariel Sharon in response to the takeover. The housing ministry announced plans this month to build thousands of houses for Jews in Arab sections of East Jerusalem.

There is no unanimous agreement within the Israeli ruling class on pressing with Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Shimon Peres, head of the opposition Labor Party, has called for a halt to Israeli settlements and for ceding some of the occupied territories to a "Jordanian-Palestinian confederation."

Continued settlement activity has increased frictions between Tel Aviv and Washington. These frictions surfaced recently around the dispute over the \$10 billion loan guarantees the Zionist regime requested from Washington. While not opposed to the loan, U.S. president George Bush pressed Congress to postpone a vote on the request until after the Middle East conference despite Israeli protests.

"Relations are not at a peak," said Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in an interview with *Davar*, an Israeli newspaper. "It is a period of differing opinions, in particular with the White House," he added.

The tension was heightened when the Bush administration joined protests against recent Israeli reconnaissance flights over Iraq. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the Israeli actions "would disrupt the peace process."

"Our security system will do what is necessary" to protect Israeli interests, declared Yossi Ben Aharon, an aide to Shamir.

Baker had to extend his stay in Israel through October 19 in order to gain final agreement from Israel on participation in the upcoming conference. Shamir demanded stronger assurances that he would not end up in de facto negotiations with the PLO at the meeting.

This latest rift appeared after reports by the Reuters news agency that the PLO in Tunis had approved the list of Palestinian delegates to the conference, drawn up by Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza.

These developments highlight the growing divergence between the foreign policy interests of the U.S. and the Israeli ruling classes.

The Israeli rulers were the losers in U.S.

imperialism's strengthened alignment with the Arab bourgeois regimes. This weakened Israel's influence with Washington, its special role in the world imperialist system, and thus its leverage in wresting ever-increasing U.S. economic and military assistance.

While Washington's interests have diverged further from Tel Aviv's, this has not brought the U.S. rulers closer to a "solution" to the Palestinian question.

Washington's biggest political obstacle is the irrepressible fight by the Palestinians for their national self-determination — above all the struggles of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. The upcoming "peace conference" will not succeed in ending this fight.

Duke bid for Louisiana governor shows rightward shift in capitalist politics

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a stunning example of how bourgeois electoral politics continues to shift to the right, David Duke, a white supremacist running as a Republican, won close to half a million votes in the Louisiana primary election for governor.

Duke came in a close second in the race with 32 percent of the vote. In the November 16 runoff election he will face former Democratic governor Edwin Edwards who took 34 percent. The current governor, Buddy Roemer, who switched his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat last March and had the public backing of President George Bush, came in third with 27 percent of the vote.

Declaring himself the new leader of what he describes as the Republican Party's conservative mainstream, Duke said, "Rank-and-file Republicans of this state voted for me, and the rank-and-file Republicans in this country believe the way I believe."

Duke made a name for himself as a grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. During the 1970s he worked with the National Socialist White People's Party, which promotes Nazism. In 1980 Duke founded and became president of the National Association for the Advancement of White People, a group that he remains active with today.

Duke projects himself as a working-class "fiscal conservative," masking his racist and anti-working-class perspective behind various code words. Duke campaigns against what he terms "the rising welfare underclass," whom he blames for all of society's

ills, such as unemployment, crime, and threatening "our treasured Christian life style."

At rallies around the state Duke hammers away at some of his racist proposals: forced drug testing of tenants living in public housing and paying cash to mothers on welfare who accept contraceptive implants.

Duke attacks the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for opposing Clarence Thomas' nomination, labeling them a "far-left organization." He fully supports the White House-led assault on affirmative action hiring and education programs. Echoing Bush's own speeches, Duke attacks minority hiring quotas as unfair to qualified whites.

"What we are doing down here in Louisiana is going to have a lot of impact all over the United States of America," states Duke. "One person described me as the Boris Yeltsin of American politics. I like that."

Duke's radical right-wing appeal is designed to tap into deep frustration felt by middle-class layers and a layer of working-class whites who suffer under a deepening economic crisis and see no alternative being presented, including from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, which has shifted to the right as well.

Duke's opponent in the November 16 runoff, Edwin Edwards, has a reputation as a habitual gambler and has twice been tried, but not convicted, on federal corruption charges. Edwards promises not to bring up Duke's past activities as part of the campaign.

Sales campaign final push: reach out to fighters

Continued from front page
arrived in New York yet.

Ninety-four *Militant* subscriptions have now been sold there and in surrounding towns, 69 percent of their goal. On the first day of the target week 6 people purchased subscriptions, including 1 worker at a Socialist Workers Party election campaign event at the Swift/Monfort packing house.

Supporters there are planning aggressive door-to-door sales during the week to keep up the momentum.

Sales at protest actions

From Cincinnati: Bobby Sack reports 7 *Militant* subscriptions and 60 single copies were sold at a day of protests October 19 against attempts by a rightist group to block clinics that provide abortions.

Thirty people turned out to a Militant Labor Forum on the fight to defend abortion rights that evening and 4 purchased introductory subscriptions. Supporters there raised their bundle size this week in order to "get out to campus dorms and door-to-door sales. We know there will be greater-than-usual interest in the *Militant* because of the discussions around the right-wing mobilizations," says Sack.

Militant supporters from Miami, Montreal, New York, and Washington, D.C., were among 5,000 in the U.S. capital October 18 protesting the coup in Haiti. Katy Le-

Rouetel from Montreal called in with partial results: "A lot of interest was expressed in a table featuring *New International*, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'internationaliste*, and a range of Pathfinder books. Some 13 copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* and *New International* were sold along with 7 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *L'internationaliste*."

Steps forward in France!

Supporters in Paris called to order more copies of *L'internationaliste*. They report that 7 subscriptions have now been sold to auto workers at Renault. Strike actions at the giant auto company are part of a number of strikes in the country right now. Nurses, social workers, child-care workers, actors, and others have staged walkouts to protest a variety of conditions.

A general strike has been called for October 24 by two of the trade union federations in the country. At Renault workers are demanding higher wages and protesting reductions in the work force by the company.

From our mailbag

Mike Shur in Salt Lake City: "Sales of *New International* have taken a big jump in the last week. We have now sold 22, up from 7 last week. One special offer of all 8 issues for \$50 has been sold, plus 2 copies on campus and 2 more at a recent

Militant Labor Forum.

"In the last week a supporter who works at a nonunion garment shop sold four subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* to her coworkers. Two rail workers and two oil workers also subscribed here this past week."

To workers in struggle

Packinghouse worker Mitchel Rosenberg writes from Ottumwa, Iowa: "Workers at the Excel Corporation, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, bought 46 single copies and 2 subscriptions to the *Militant* from plant-gate teams here recently. Several purchased copies at the union hall as well."

"The workers had been involved in a fight against company concession demands as their contract expired October 5."

"On September 23, 15 papers were sold; 20 plus the two subscriptions September 30; and 10 single copies October 7."

"Told about the *Militant's* support to working-class struggles, Chris Gerguson nodded approvingly and said, 'We've all got to stick together.'"

From Yvonne Hayes in Baltimore: "Militant supporters here recently took a couple of days off work to travel to Maryland's Eastern Shore. The poultry industry dominates the region, along with fish processing."

"At the Perdue plant in Salisbury 9 work-

ers bought the *Militant* and almost everyone on the second shift took flyers promoting subscriptions to the paper.

"The team also sought out area farmers and sold at two college campuses and two other factories. One subscription, 28 copies of the *Militant*, and a copy of *New International* no. 5 on South Africa were sold altogether."

From our fax

Kicking off the target week in the Twin Cities, Minnesota supporters sold 5 *Militant* subscriptions in working-class communities during a special Saturday effort. *Militant* circulation and business director Roni McCann writes from Twin Cities: "The effort put supporters on schedule in their goal to win 165 new readers by November 2. They stand at 132 sold as of October 19 and have several regional teams and other special activities planned for the week."

The next day supporters hit the University of Minnesota campus to sell the socialist press to students and build a meeting there for McCann, who is also national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance.

By continuing to politically reach out with the socialist press in this kind of way supporters can come out of November 2 having won more than 6,200 new readers.

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l*		L'inter**		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Greensboro, NC	55	45	82%	10	4	14	6	1	0	80	55
Portland	15	12	80%	0	0	10	7	0	0	25	19
Twin Cities, Minn.	165	126	76%	18	14	55	23	2	0	240	163
Chicago	163	122	75%	40	21	70	13	2	0	275	156
Newark, NJ *	150	111	74%	50	26	70	12	5	6	275	155
New York *	250	183	73%	100	68	110	41	15	10	475	302
Seattle *	95	69	73%	35	31	27	13	3	0	160	113
Salt Lake City *	170	122	72%	24	16	54	22	2	0	250	160
Pittsburgh	75	53	71%	3	4	30	8	2	0	110	65
Birmingham, Ala.	110	77	70%	5	0	43	14	2	0	160	91
Detroit *	122	85	70%	10	5	30	26	2	0	164	116
Los Angeles *	170	114	67%	100	64	107	55	3	0	380	233
Philadelphia *	70	46	66%	20	10	35	15	2	0	127	71
Miami *	100	65	65%	30	18	44	25	5	8	179	116
San Francisco	160	103	64%	65	28	72	38	3	1	300	170
Cleveland	85	52	61%	10	3	25	16	2	0	122	71
Anamosa	10	6	60%	2	0	2	0	0	0	14	6
Baltimore	85	50	59%	12	3	40	11	3	1	140	65
Washington, DC	100	58	58%	18	20	55	33	2	4	175	115
Atlanta *	121	70	58%	12	2	56	17	2	0	191	89
St. Louis	115	65	57%	5	1	30	11	2	0	152	77
Boston *	125	69	55%	40	17	53	30	7	7	225	123
Houston	75	41	55%	20	9	30	8	2	0	127	58
Omaha, Neb.	86	46	53%	12	5	25	10	2	0	125	61
Morgantown, WV *	90	48	53%	3	2	30	6	2	0	125	56
Cincinnati	17	9	53%	2	0	6	0	0	0	25	9
Denver	6	3	50%	3	0	2	0	0	0	11	3
Des Moines, Iowa *	136	60	44%	25	11	40	6	2	0	203	77
Wichita	10	4	40%	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	5
Louisville	6	2	33%	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
New Haven, Conn.	18	3	17%	2	0	5	0	0	0	25	3
National teams	25	21	84%	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	21
U.S. TOTAL	2,955	1,919	65%	676	383	1,170	466	75	37	4,876	2,805
AUSTRALIA *	27	14	52%	7	5	15	9	1	0	50	28
BRITAIN	4	1	25%	1	0	7	1	10	1	22	3
Manchester	60	38	63%	3	2	40	6	2	0	105	46
London	100	61	61%	7	9	70	36	3	2	180	108
Sheffield	60	16	27%	3	3	40	1	2	0	105	20
Other Britain	10	3	30%	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	5
BRITAIN TOTAL	230	118	51%	13	16	150	43	7	2	400	179
CANADA											
Vancouver	80	61	76%	15	14	30	12	5	2	130	89
Montreal *	65	43	66%	20	13	50	25	30	28	165	109
Toronto *	80	49	61%	20	14	45	37	5	4	150	104
CANADA TOTAL	225	153	68%	55	41	125	74	40	34	445	302
FRANCE *	5	3	60%	5	3	20	19	15	10	45	35
ICELAND	20	7	35%	0	1	4	1	0	0	24	9
MEXICO	0	0	0%	15	0	5	0	0	0	20	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch	53	42	79%	2	0	12	6	1	0	68	48
Auckland	75	56	75%	9	4	25	12	1	0	110	72
Wellington	50	32	64%	3	0	14	10	1	0	68	42
Other N. Zealand	4	8	200%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
N. Z. TOTAL	182	138	76%	14	4	51	28	3	0	250	170
PUERTO RICO	2	0	0%	6	5	6	6	0	0	14	11
SWEDEN	45	33	73%	20	27	15	16	3	2	83	78
TOTAL	3,695	2,386	65%	812	485	1,568	663	154	86	6,229	3,620
SHOULD BE		2,562	70%		560		1,120		98		4,340
DRIVE GOALS	3,660			800		1,600		140		6,200	

*Raised goals.
**Single copies of *New International*, *Nueva Internacional*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*; Subscriptions to *L'internationaliste*

Senate approves nomination of Thomas for U.S. Supreme Court

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Clarence Thomas won confirmation as a judge on the Supreme Court October 15 by a 52-to-48 vote in the U.S. Senate. He narrowly survived accusations by Anita Hill, a former employee, that he had sexually harassed her.

Thomas won confirmation after the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the sexual harassment charges were turned into a trial. As right-wing columnist William Safire put it in a *New York Times* article, "the accuser had the burden of truth and the accused had the benefit of the doubt." Thomas's word was pitted against Hill's. He would have had to be proven guilty in order for his nomination to be endangered.

Hill, a law professor who is Black, accused Thomas of repeated sexual harassment when she worked as his aide in the Department of Education and later at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Thomas's backers attempted to discredit Hill's integrity at the hearings.

Thomas categorically denied the accusations and condemned the fact that sexual harassment charges could be discussed in public.

In addition, Thomas and his supporters sought to portray the accusations against him as racist, charging that the hearings constituted a "high-tech lynching." Thomas's backers used his bourgeois nationalism to attempt to gain a wider hearing for his right-wing views. "The bonfire illuminated the existence of an impressive, moderate black middle-class," said an October 18 *Wall Street Journal* editorial. "They should stick around and keep talking."

President George Bush nominated Thomas because of his stated opposition to affirmative action, abortion rights, the right to privacy, and other democratic rights won in struggle by working people.

Once the Senate voted, all the wings of the ruling class, including those who had expressed reservations earlier about Bush's nomination, welcomed Thomas's confirmation. "Judge Thomas's restraint was admirable," a *New York Times* editorial said October 17. "There is reason to hope, after the pain and after the joy, for civility, precision, and justice."

The hearings gripped working people's attention. The public discussion that erupted underlined how pervasive sexual harassment against women is.

At the same time the widespread discussion in the factories, mills, and other workplaces showed that many workers see sexual harassment by an employer as unacceptable. This is due to the social

advances made through the growing numbers of women in the work force and the fight for women's rights.

It was this discussion that Bush and Congress attempted to cover up and were dismayed to see unfold. Bush said October 17 that he thought the Judiciary Committee should have met privately to examine the sexual harassment charges.

"I think sometimes when you get to subjects that are that sensitive, it is well to delegate to your elected officials," Bush said.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Militant* Sold	New Int'l Sold
UNITED STATES			
ACTWU	38%	34	13
IAM	54%	127	69
ILGWU	52%	25	13
IUE	52%	65	34
OCAW	45%	38	17
UAW	50%	82	41
UFCW	46%	100	46
UMWA	72%	25	18
USWA	60%	91	55
UTU	53%	105	56
TOTAL SHOULD BE	52%	692	362
AUSTRALIA			
MFTU	29%	7	2
SHOULD BE	70%	5	3
BRITAIN			
AEU	10%	10	1
NUM	36%	14	5
RMT	31%	26	8
TGWU	30%	20	6
TOTAL SHOULD BE	29%	70	20
CANADA			
ACTWU	0%	7	0
CAW	80%	10	8
IAM	40%	10	4
USWA	25%	16	4
TOTAL SHOULD BE	37%	43	16
NEW ZEALAND			
NZEU	17%	6	1
NZMWU	56%	9	5
FTWU	40%	5	2
UFCW	71%	7	5
TOTAL SHOULD BE	48%	27	13
SWEDEN			
FOOD WORKERS	33%	6	2
METAL	89%	9	8
TOTAL SHOULD BE	67%	15	10

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'internationaliste*.

Iowa rally backs suit against cop violence

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Forty people packed the storefront offices of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee October 12. The meeting protested cop brutality and backed a lawsuit filed by Mark Curtis against the City of Des Moines and the police officers who beat him after his arrest in March 1988. Filed in May 1989, the suit is coming to trial November 25.

The cops framed Curtis on false charges of burglary and rape of a young Black woman. But his real crime in their eyes was his union and political activities. Taken to the city jail, he was brutally beaten by the police. Curtis suffered a shattered cheekbone and a wound requiring 15 stitches. As the cops beat him they announced their real charges, calling Curtis "a Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

Hours before his arrest Curtis actively spoke out in defense of immigrant coworkers who were jailed as a result of a raid by immigration authorities at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant.

"This fight is not just about Mark but about the kind of system we're living under and the kind of activities carried out by police against people standing up for their rights," Stu Singer told the meeting. Singer is a former coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, in town to give a deposition as part of the pretrial proceedings. Singer and Curtis were next door neighbors at the time Curtis was arrested. Singer had also attended a meeting that day to protest the immigration raid at Swift. Curtis called his home that night just after Curtis had been brought into the police headquarters.

Singer said he had called the police station to find out what the bail was in order to get Curtis released. After being given the run-around, the police admitted that they were "processing" someone in the back.

"The cops arrested, tried, convicted, and carried out their sentence when they brutally beat him," Singer said.

"In meat-packing they talk about processing beef," stated Singer. "In the police department they talk about processing humans — really dehumanizing them. That's what processing means to the Des Moines cops."

John Studer, current coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, also spoke at the forum. He said the frame-up and beating of Curtis did not happen because Mark was unusual but simply because he was a worker who spoke out. "Police brutality is a regular occurrence in this city," Studer said. "It's dished out to working people every day. It's the method the police use to intimidate people, to keep

the 'system' running smoothly."

Studer reviewed some of the history of cop brutality that workers in Des Moines have experienced. "Three times in the last 10 years, government agencies have been called in to investigate reports about cop brutality in Des Moines," he said. "Each time the police were found guilty as charged."

From the pages of the *Des Moines Register*, Studer pointed to some of the cops' most notorious acts. This includes the "elevator ride" in the police department building where many of these beatings take place. By the cops own admission, this practice has been going on for 40 years. Prisoners are also reported to have "committed suicide" by hanging themselves with their own T-shirts in jail. Numerous brutality complaints have been filed against the cops over the years — 40 such cases in 1989 and 50 in 1990.

The defense committee leader pointed out that Joseph Gonzalez, one of the cops who arrested Curtis and testified against him during his trial, was suspended for two weeks from the force in May 1978 for using unnecessary force and lying. "I put Gonzalez on probation for one year," stated the Des Moines police chief at the time, "and if he screws up one more time, I'll fire him." No facts about Gonzalez's record were allowed at Curtis' 1988 criminal trial. Gonzalez's



Meat-packers. Jailed union activist Mark Curtis worked at the Swift/Monfort packing plant. His lawsuit against police for vicious beating comes to trial November 25.

testimony played a central role in convicting Curtis.

Others fighting cop brutality

Also participating in this meeting were other victims of police brutality who graphically told their own stories.

Bonnie Fugate said the cops illegally searched her house, beat up her two daughters, attacked her dog, and arrested and roughed up her sister on July 28. This all happened because she and her family were on their porch and saw the cops beating young people who were in a van. Fugate

described how the cops cursed and threatened people who had observed the beating, ordering them back into their homes.

Emilia Moreno described how cops barged into her house, handcuffed her 17-year-old brother, and began beating him August 19. When she objected, the cops pushed her and threatened to charge her with interfering with an officer.

Moreno reported how the cops, in an effort to justify their behavior, stated, "If you guys want to live in this country, you better live by our laws." Moreno was born in California.

Parole board sets November 6 Curtis hearing

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES — Iowa state authorities have set Mark Curtis' annual meeting with the Iowa State Board of Parole for November 6 at 1:00 p.m. Curtis is a union and political activist who has spent over three years in state prison on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

State law requires that the parole board give prisoners an opportunity to meet with board members to request parole or advancement within the prison system to a less restrictive institution or work release.

Curtis is currently being held at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa. The activist has been shuffled between six different prisons since being framed, in some instances in retaliation for his political activity. He was transferred out of Anamosa in 1989 for being "too powerful in the inmate population." Earlier this year he was sent to the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility in an effort to pressure him to drop his legal appeal of the frame-up conviction and renounce the international campaign being waged in his defense. In

exchange he would have been enrolled in a behavior modification program for admitted sex offenders that could have enhanced his ability to win parole.

Hundreds of union leaders, political activists, opponents of police brutality, supporters of Black and women's rights, and defenders of prisoners' rights have written to the Iowa parole board to urge that he be released.

Under Iowa law, a central consideration in the board's deliberations on whether to parole a prisoner is the extent of community support for his release.

Many of his supporters point out that Curtis has spent longer than usual for a first-time offender on the charge on which he was framed up, and that the unionist has had an excellent record in prison.

Tony Anaya, former governor of New Mexico, where Curtis' family lives, recently addressed a letter to the board. He writes that, as the former governor, he was "one who has been involved in the process of paroles and pardons." Therefore, Anaya states, "it is not without considerable

thought that I write to you."

Anaya adds, "Your favorable consideration of his request would be acknowledged by many across this country who are continuing to follow Mark's incarceration and who are prepared to assist him to adjust to society upon his release."

Edward Burke, Jr., president, and Robert Turcotte, vice president of International Association of Machinists Air Transport Lodge 1726 in East Boston, Massachusetts, wrote the board: "Please take this opportunity to place Mark Curtis back into society by granting his parole requests at this time. Keeping Mark incarcerated any longer is not in the best interest to the state of Iowa, its citizens or Mark."

A number of trade unions from Sweden have written recently to the board urging Curtis' release, including the Executive Board of the Foodworkers Union at Skogholms Brod and the Foodworkers Union local at Konsum Chark, both in Stockholm.

Desmond Wilson, noted Irish rights activist in Belfast, Northern Ireland, writes that "in the case of Mark Curtis I believe that the arguments for granting parole are overwhelmingly strong on every ground and I ask you please to act accordingly and to release him on parole."

Eric Hobsbawn, noted British historian and current professor of political science and history at the New School for Social Research in New York, writes, "Keeping Mark in prison will only be a further injustice and a discriminatory act against a unionist and activist for social justice; I urge you to grant him parole as quickly as possible."

Curtis is allowed a limited number of guests to enter the state prison in Anamosa to observe his parole hearing. They are seated in a small room in the prison basement and view the hearing on closed circuit television. Curtis is not permitted to have any supporters accompany him into the interview with the board.

For this reason, the board has scheduled a special meeting to receive the hundreds of letters gathered on Curtis' behalf from supporters of his release and to discuss with them his request to be freed. The meeting is scheduled for October 31 at the parole board office in Des Moines.

Defense committee leader Héctor Marroquín reports that letters urging the parole to act on Curtis' behalf can still be included if they are received in the next few days. To send a letter, to get more information on the ongoing defense campaign, or to make a donation, you can contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Fund drive helps socialist youth reach out to fighters

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

NEW YORK — The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) has launched a national fund drive to raise \$9,000. The nine-week drive will end December 16.

Through their activities this fall YSA members are finding that young people are more and more affected by political developments in the world. As the barbaric capitalist system sinks deeper into crisis youth are repelled by its injustice and open to revolutionary and socialist ideas. For example, a new chapter has been formed in Wichita, Kansas, by youth who were active when Operation Rescue organized right-wing mobilizations to blockade and close abortion clinics there. The aim of the fund drive is to make it possible to take advantage of the political openings to build the YSA today.

Garnet Parks, fund drive director for the Twin Cities chapter, said in an interview, "The YSA chapter here has been involved in several struggles including the fight at the University of Minnesota against the attempt to form a 'White Student Union.'"

"Our involvement in that fight has drawn interest in the YSA from many young people," he said. "We've seen an increased interest in socialist ideas. We're organizing the fund drive as an extension of getting out in the city and on the campuses."

Parks reported that most YSA members

regularly participate in the international circulation campaign by getting out with the *Militant* and literature tables with Pathfinder books. The chapter adopted a total goal of 60 subscriptions to the socialist press and copies of *New Internationalist*. They've since raised their goal to 100.

As a way to raise money toward their fund-drive goal of \$900, the Twin Cities chapter is planning to cook breakfast for supporters of the *Militant* who will be kicking off the target week of the international subscription campaign, which begins October 19. YSA members are also planning a social event, a film showing, and a raffle of the new two volume set from Pathfinder, *Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite!*

The New York chapter got a head start on the fund drive by organizing a raffle at the Militant Labor Forum held on October 12. Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Worker Party, spoke on "The Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism."

Dan Dukes, a member of the New York YSA fund-drive committee said, "The chapter was very involved in getting the word out about this forum by going out on sales teams with the *Militant*, posting up leaflets all over the city and on campuses, and calling young people who've expressed interest in the YSA."

The chapter raised \$267 toward its goal of \$1,700 by raffling off items from Cuba and two new Pathfinder publications: *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, which contains speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, and the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional* on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism."

The New York YSA is also planning to send a fund appeal to young people who have asked to be on its mailing list. "Since we're a self-financed organization, the bulk of our goal will come from the membership," Dukes said. "But it's important to reach out to people who've indicated interest in the YSA to let them know what we're doing, how they can aid the YSA in getting out a fighting perspective, and why they should join the YSA." Pledges from members in New York average \$50.

Promoting Militant Labor Forums is seen by chapters as an important part of raising money. The Chicago chapter reports that six new people attended a forum on Malcolm X where the YSA conducted a raffle and raised \$26. Some chapters have already voted to raise their goals. The YSA in Pittsburgh raised its goal from \$150 to \$200 and the YSA in Boston raised its from \$200 to \$250.

To make a contribution to the Young Socialist Alliance, send donations to: YSA, P.O. Box 211, New York, NY 10011.

Curtis optimistic about fight for justice

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

ANAMOSA, Iowa — In an October 13 interview conducted with Mark Curtis at the Iowa Men's Reformatory here, the jailed unionist expressed optimism about the support that continues to be won for his parole fight and his suit against cop brutality in Des Moines. "Both these events will present opportunities to press forward the fight for justice in my case," he said.

Curtis' parole hearing is scheduled for November 6. "This will be my third time seeing the parole board and will be another opportunity to demonstrate how much support there is for my release," stated Curtis. "It's just gotten bigger every year. I'm really impressed, having seen a lot of the copies of letters the parole board has received — from trade unionists to civil libertarians, to Hollywood actors and screen writers and many supporters around the world."

Curtis' suit against cop brutality is scheduled to go to trial November 25.

"This time I'll be going to court as a plaintiff," he said. "I'm asking for damages for the beating I received March 4, 1988, at the hands of certain officers in the Des Moines police department."

"When I first filed this suit in 1989, there was some skepticism in certain quarters about whether Des Moines officers would do this sort of thing. However, since then, there's been a mountain of evidence showing that these kinds of beatings and attacks are not isolated instances," said Curtis.

The March, 1991, videotape of the cop beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles helped expose the daily brutality of the police force. "New facts continue to come out about the racist, sexist, antiworker, and violent nature of the police," he said.

"This trial will be the first opportunity I'll have to explain this issue in court," said Curtis. At his September 1988 trial on rape and burglary charges, the judge prevented Curtis from entering as evidence the facts about the cop beating he received when arrested. "Publicizing this lawsuit against the cops will create new opportunities to explain how I was framed in the first place. It will win new supporters to my fight."

Curtis had been incarcerated at Anamosa

from December 1988 until May 1990 when he was transferred to the John Bennett Center in Fort Madison, Iowa. Last July 17, authorities sent Curtis to the correctional facility in Mt. Pleasant in an attempt to press Curtis to enter the Sex Offenders Treatment Program there. To participate in this program a prisoner must admit guilt to a sex crime and agree to abandon any legal appeal of a conviction.

Since Curtis has maintained his innocence since the beginning of his frame-up, he could not participate in such a program under those conditions. On August 6, Curtis was transferred back to the prison in Anamosa.

Meets many workers

Curtis also discussed some of his political experiences at Anamosa and through the course of his travels in the Iowa prison system.

"I've met so many coworkers from when I worked at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant that sometimes I feel like I'm back at work," said Curtis. "Every time I turn around I see someone I used to work with or someone who knows someone I used to work with."

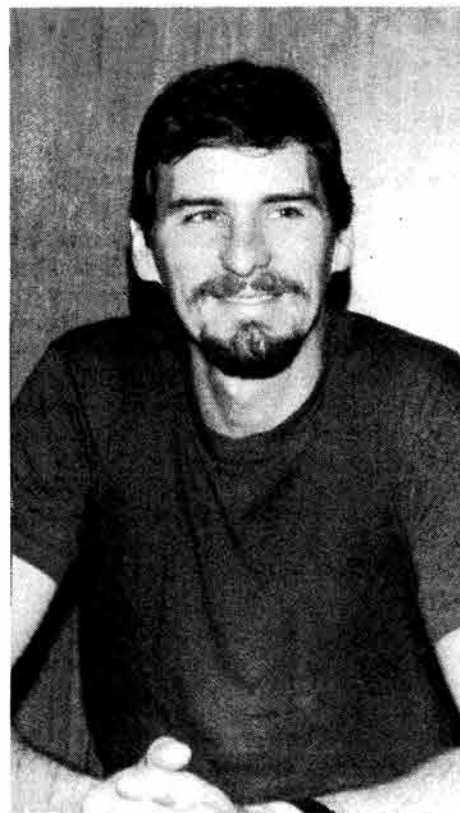
"When I was at Mt. Pleasant I met a friend of mine who used to work right next to me at the Swift plant. After I had been arrested he also had gotten arrested. He was taken to the police station and roughed up pretty bad by the cops. He also has filed a lawsuit and wants to link up with my fight."

"I've met many prisoners who have been roughed up by the cops and are seeking some measure of justice. Many are following developments in my fight very closely," stated Curtis.

Since coming back to Anamosa after 15 months, Curtis observed that living conditions here at Iowa's largest state prison have definitely "gone downhill." There's more overcrowding, less facilities available to prisoners, and tightening censorship with more mail being rejected for more reasons.

Conditions are only expected to get worse. The warden has announced half a million dollars in cuts for next year's prison budget. Money for meals and equipment is targeted for cuts.

Many discussions are taking place within the prison on some of the big developments



Militant/Brian Williams

Framed-up unionist Mark Curtis during interview at Anamosa, Iowa, prison.

in U.S. and world politics. The framed-up packinghouse worker said the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, especially the charges of sexual harassment against him, provoked a widespread debate.

"There are wide differences of opinion on this," stated Curtis. "Some say that the Senate hearings were like a high-tech lynching of Thomas, that he's being mistreated because of his race. Others who are more familiar with Thomas' reactionary political views see that his antiwoman views fit right in with how he conducted his personal life."

"Sexual harassment is a big problem throughout this country whether it's at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or at Swift/Monfort where I used to work," Curtis said. "Many guys whose wives and sisters are working feel strongly that they

shouldn't have to put up with sexual harassment."

Can't rely on courts

Another important discussion, highlighted by the Thomas nomination, is why working people can't rely on the courts in the fight for their rights.

"You might think that in prison there would be more skepticism toward the courts and the so-called justice system," he said. "There is some skepticism, but on the other hand there are even more illusions here because of the more limited options on what people can do to fight against their convictions. Many think that the only thing you can do is file a lawsuit. This limited option tends to make some people disillusioned and pessimistic about the prospects of fighting for their rights."

"I explain that the main thing is the fight, not the legal system. I point to examples of working people getting involved in real politics: the deepening mobilizations of the masses in South Africa fighting under the leadership of the ANC [African National Congress] to topple the apartheid state system. The workers in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who are taking to the streets in the fight for their rights are another example. It's these kinds of actions that show the way forward," explained Curtis.

Curtis noted that in South Africa, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe, there are thousands of former political prisoners taking part in protests. "By fighting for our rights, we're fighting for our humanity and that strengthens the working class of the world quite a bit," he said.

Many prisoners remain deeply interested in reading of the ideas of ANC president Nelson Mandela. A collection of his speeches are in the prison library and circulates widely.

Curtis explained that some inmates express impatience with the pace of developments in South Africa. They want to know why apartheid continues even though Mandela has been out of jail for nearly two years.

"This leads to a good discussion on what a revolution is, what kind of program and organization it takes to win, and how the ANC must organize to win millions from all races to its ranks and leadership," stated Curtis.

'Multiracial society'

"It's quite an interesting discussion in here," continued Curtis. "We're a multiracial little society in prison with large numbers of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and whites. All the same divisions that capitalism foisted on us on the outside have been foisted on us inside these prison walls. That's why there's a lot of discussion and interest in South Africa and the fight against racism in the United States as well," he concluded.

As part of these political discussions, Curtis has helped organize an educational class series on *The Communist Manifesto* with several other prisoners.

Curtis moved to Iowa five years ago to be part of and learn from important working-class battles, especially among meat-packers, that were occurring throughout the Midwest. At the same time farmers were involved in protest actions against foreclosures on their farms.

Curtis was inspired by opportunities for workers and farmers to get to know each other and strengthen each other's battles. He explained that these fights helped give working people a glimpse of what the future holds.

Curtis hasn't changed this outlook at all. He remains confident in the political capacity of the working class to fight and forge a new class-struggle leadership, and about being able to win his fight for justice as well.

When asked, Curtis said he had a message for his supporters:

"There's no way we could have gotten to this point in the fight without all your hard work and support," he stated. "From meat-packers in New Zealand to farmers in France to workers in the United States, I really appreciate your support and help. I'm fighting just as hard in here as you are out there. After three years, I'm not anywhere close to being broken, or giving up, or becoming dispirited. That's in large measure due to knowing that supporters like you are out there working hard on a fight you see as politically important for all working people."

Los Angeles meeting discusses campaign, raises funds to free jailed unionist

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — A meeting here in support of Mark Curtis heard Priscilla Schenk, a leader in the fight to free the victimized packinghouse worker.

The October 12 meeting was chaired by Hollywood director Nick Castle. He is the producer of the video film *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*.

Also speaking was Herb Bradley, a member of the International Association of Machinists. He was a leader of the Eastern Airlines strike and is now a union activist at Northwest Airlines.

Bradley stressed the importance of solidarity for the union movement and pointed to the Curtis case as one that demands such solidarity.

Schenk, who is from Des Moines, discussed the civil rights suit filed by Curtis against the Des Moines police department.

Arrested on a trumped-up rape charge, Curtis was savagely beaten by police. His case against the police is scheduled to go to trial November 25.

Schenk charged that the brutalization experienced by Curtis is standard practice in police departments across the country.

She recalled the Los Angeles police beating of Rodney King and the recent killing of four people in as many weeks by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies.

She explained that the frame-up of Curtis stemmed from the key role he was playing in defense of a group of immigrant workers at the Swift plant where he worked. These workers had been victimized by immigration cops.

At Swift, the mainly immigrant work force has experienced rapidly intensified exploitation. Wages have been driven down, production has been sped up, and dangerous working conditions are the norm.

The growing number of immigrant workers in the labor force, she continued, are a



Des Moines unionist Priscilla Schenk (left) and Hollywood director Nick Castle spoke at Los Angeles meeting in support of Mark Curtis.

particular target of the government attack. By the same token, they are increasingly the victims of racist cop violence.

Schenk said an encouraging number of unionists and others have written the Iowa parole board urging Curtis' release. Meanwhile, authorities have made it clear they intend to resist the parole demand unless Curtis admits "guilt" and abandons his political fight for freedom.

In this, Schenk said, the authorities unfortunately enjoy the support of some bureaucrats in the upper levels of the union officialdom.

These union officials have given support to the prosecution, she explained, because on key political issues they stand opposed to Curtis. She cited the example of an official



Militant photos by Della Rossa

of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union who asked why they should support Curtis when he supports "illegal aliens."

A serious blow was struck at the parole fight when Iowa state AFL-CIO officials condemned the effort to win parole for Curtis and offered as good coin the trumped-up police version of the case.

But, Schenk declared, this will not deter the fight for Curtis. Rather, it underlines the importance of winning the support of rank-and-file unionists for the case.

Schenk narrated a brief slide show of her recent visit to Mexico where new support was won for Curtis.

To help defray the mounting costs of the Curtis defense campaign, the audience contributed \$439.



50,000 Bulgarians rally in support of opposition political party

Fifty thousand Bulgarians rallied October 14 in Sofia, the capital city, in support of the announced election victory of the Union of Democratic Forces over the former Communist Party, which has changed its name to Socialist.

Unofficial accounts give the Union of Democratic Forces 36 percent of the vote, the socialists 32 percent, and the Turkish minority's Movement for Rights and Freedoms 7 percent. Nearly a quarter of the votes went to 58 smaller parties.

Both the Union of Democratic Forces and the current Socialist government favor privatization of state-owned businesses and the introduction of a market economy. They only differ on how fast to try to implement this.

The close election returns mean that the balance of power in Parliament will be in the hands of the Turkish minority, which accounts for 11 percent of Bulgaria's 9 million people. The Turkish people in Bulgaria have faced decades of discriminatory treatment at the hands of the Stalinist bureaucratic regime there.

Fourth Yugoslav republic declares its independence

The parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the republics in Yugoslavia, issued an independence statement October 15. It joined Slovenia, Macedonia, and Croatia in taking this step.

Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia and Herzegovina, claimed the independence move was taken to stay out of the civil war in Serbia and Croatia that has already led to 2,500 deaths. Conflicts between wings of the bureaucratic regime in Yugoslavia are the cause of the warfare.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is populated by 1.9 million Slavic Muslims, 1.3 million Serbs, and 740,000 Croats. The governments of both the Serbian and Croatian republics have previously expressed an interest in dividing Bosnia and Herzegovina between them.

Meanwhile Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev invited the presidents of Serbia and Croatia to Moscow in an attempt to reach agreement on another cease-fire.

Angolan government and UNITA seek support from Washington

Both Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), have appealed to the U.S. government for support in the upcoming elections there.

A peace accord signed last May ended 16 years of war. UNITA, with the full backing of Washington and the South African government, carried out a war against the newly independent government. In September, Savimbi returned to Luanda, Angola's capital, to start campaigning in the elections tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1992.

Dos Santos visited Washington in September, pledging his government's commitment to a free-market economy was "irreversible." In a meeting with more than 100 U.S. businessmen and bankers, he appealed for new investments in Angola.

Savimbi, who met with President Bush in Washington in mid-October called for increased foreign investment. He also asked the U.S. government and the United Nations to play a stepped-up role in the upcoming Angolan elections.

French and German gov'ts propose European army

The French and German governments have called for the formation of a European army. As a step towards this, the two governments announced plans to create a French-German military force of 30,000 troops.

The British government called this plan a potential threat to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Officials in Washington said they were not alarmed by this proposal—as long as it was compatible with maintaining NATO.

U.S. government issues new restrictions on Cuba travel

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued new regulations designed to step up Washington's pressure on the Cuban revolution.

The measures, announced September 27, primarily affect Cuban-Americans and their relatives in Cuba. Under the new restrictions U.S. residents or companies can send no more than \$500 to Cuba for travel-related expenses, including transportation, for visits to and from the island. Plane fares, visa fees, passports, and other expenses, which in part go to the Cuban government, often exceed \$700.

At the same time the Treasury Department reduced from \$500 to \$300 the amount that family members can send to close relatives in Cuba every three months.

Felix Vargas, spokesperson for ABC, a Miami-based air charter company, said it was too early to tell what impact the new regulations would have on the number of passengers traveling on the airline.

Brutal trade embargo

For more than 30 years the U.S. government has used a brutal economic embargo in an attempt to undermine the Cuban revolution. Washington hopes to tighten the squeeze on Cuba while the country is undergoing severe economic hardships due to a collapse in trade with countries in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The pamphlet *Cuba: What You Need to Know About the U.S. Embargo*, published by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, says that the embargo was implemented under the "Trading with the Enemy Act in response to certain hostile actions by the Cuban government." These hostile acts, which the pamphlet does not specify, were the decision by the Cuban people and government to end foreign domination and carry through the 1959 revolution to the end.

Office of Foreign Assets Control spokesperson Robert Levine said in a phone interview that the measures, in spite of the hardships they will cause many families, are necessary to end "excessive currency transfers" to Cuba, which according to Washington helps keep Fidel Castro in power.

The Cuban government has not yet issued an official statement responding to the move.

This new attack on Cuba was announced just two weeks before Congress was expected to vote on the Mack amendment, a measure that would extend the U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba to subsidiaries of U.S. firms in third countries. The amendment is named after its sponsor, Sen. Connie Mack of Florida.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said in a letter that "in its current form" President George Bush's "senior advisers will recommend a veto" of the bill. Close U.S. allies, such as the British and Canadian governments, strongly oppose the bill. These governments benefit from trade with Cuba and see the measure as an attempt to impose U.S. law and trade policies on them.

U.S. holds up visas

In a related move, the U.S. government announced July 29 that it had suspended acceptance of new applications for tourist visas in Havana. Washington has often tried to score propaganda points by claiming Cuba won't let people leave, even to visit.

The U.S. State Department says it has a backlog of 28,000 applications. The Cuban government recently announced the lifting of restrictions on foreign travel for all Cubans 20 or over, if they can obtain visas. But since the State Department refuses to take visa applications, they are unable to travel to the United States. Until recently, Cuba granted permission for tourist travel only to those 60 years of age and older. About 35,000 Cubans visited the United States between July 1990 and March of this year.

A 1987 agreement between Washington and Havana allows for 20,000 Cubans to emigrate to the United States each year. But in 1990 Washington only granted 10,400 immigrant visas.

By refusing to grant enough visas, U.S. policy encourages illegal, and physically dangerous, emigration from Cuba. Some 1,900 people left Cuba to enter the United States illegally by boat or by raft since January. This is four times the number for all of

1990. The Cuban government has repeatedly made it clear that it has no objections to emigration by those who want to leave.

The new regulations have opened a debate in the Cuban-American community.

The most right-wing Cuban-American groups have been pushing for restrictions of this type for some time. Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the Cuban American National Foundation, issued a statement in March calling for a crackdown, claiming that the fees charged by the Cuban government for visas and passports for Cubans traveling to the United States and Cuban-Americans traveling to Cuba were "extortion."

Alicia Torres, executive director of the Cuban American Committee, answered Mas Canosa. "Do we really want to worsen the economic situation for our relatives in Cuba?" she asked.

Some oppose the restrictions from the standpoint of how to get rid of Fidel Castro.

Ernesto Betancourt, former head of Washington's Florida-based Radio Martí, argued in a September 6 column in the *New York*

Times that Bush's policy causes "disenchanted Cubans [to] perceive Mr. Castro's removal as more threatening to their interests than his staying in power."

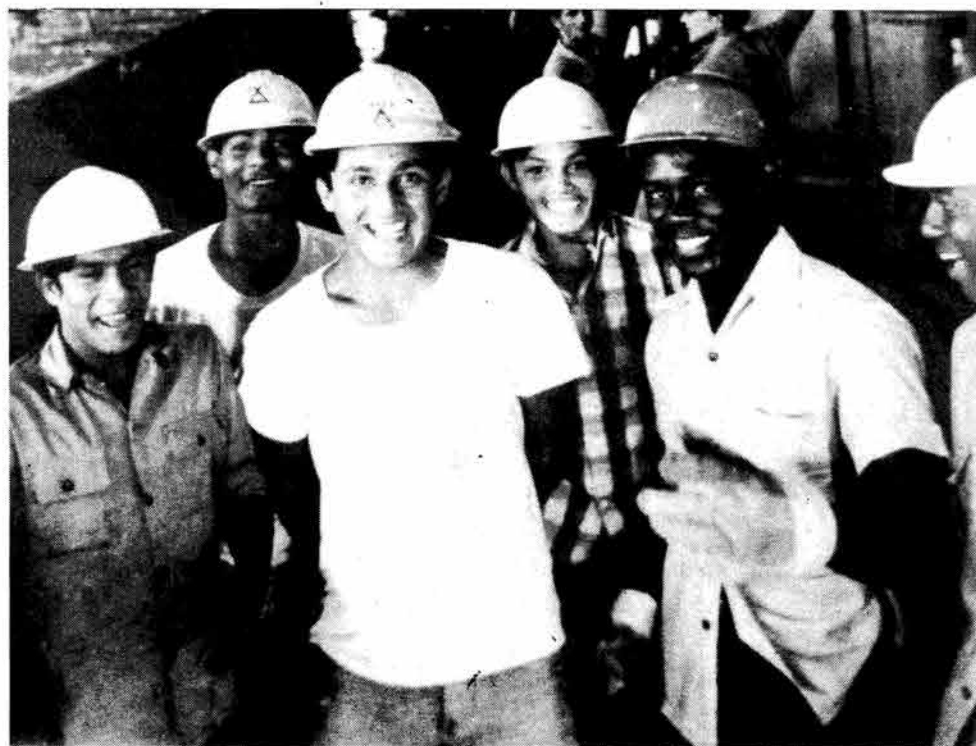
Openly discussing intervention in Cuba and stepping up harassment is counterproductive, Betancourt argues. Doesn't Washington realize that "although Marxist ideology is dead, nationalism is very much alive?" he asks.

Even Mas Canosa had to admit that stepping up the restrictions is controversial in the Cuban community in the United States. "It's a very, very tough issue," he stated.

On September 29, 200 Cubans crowded into a banquet room in Miami to protest the new restrictions.

More than half of the one million Cubans in the United States live in the Miami area.

Cubans are still allowed to send "gift parcels" to their relatives. The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control says only one parcel may be sent by the same person in any one month and the parcel's retail value "must not exceed \$200."



Cuban factory workers. New U.S. Treasury rules primarily affect Cuban-Americans and their relatives in Cuba. Washington is trying to undermine the revolution.

Peruvian senator says U.S. troops target country's working people

BY SETH GALINSKY

Peruvian senator Hugo Blanco called for an end to U.S. military aid to Peru during an October 12 interview in New York. Blanco is a member of the Unified Mariategui Party.

"The so-called war against drugs is just a pretext for intervening in the Andean countries," Blanco said. "In fact, it is a war against the Peruvian people."

U.S. President George Bush and the Congress had reached agreement 10 days earlier on sending \$24.9 million in military aid to Peru. Bush had originally allocated \$34.9 million for the plan, which was to include sending dozens of Special Forces and Navy personnel to train two combat battalions. After some Congressmen raised objections to the size of the plan because of the Peruvian army's notorious record of torture and murder, the administration agreed to a scaled-down program. Present plans apparently include refurbishing army helicopters and air force combat jets and a smaller number of advisers.

Washington claims the aid is needed to fight "narcoterrorism" by Sendero Luminoso. Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) is a reactionary organization that uses "socialist" phraseology while carrying out terrorist attacks against government installations and personnel. It controls large sections of the Peruvian countryside.

The newest aid package continues Washington's military involvement in Peru. According to the *New York Times*, U.S. Green Berets have instructed 800 Peruvian police in "jungle drug interdiction" since 1989. U.S.

Marines have been secretly training Peruvian marine units in river and jungle warfare, and at any one time, 30 or more Drug Enforcement Agency officers are stationed at the Santa Lucia base in the Upper Huallaga Valley.

Peru, with a foreign debt of more than \$20 billion, is in the midst of a long-term economic crisis. In one sign of the appalling conditions, at least 100,000 Peruvians have been infected with cholera during an epidemic that hit the country last spring. More than 1,000 have died.

In an attempt to win favor from Washington and other imperialist powers, President Alberto Fujimori has launched severe austerity measures. In response there have been strikes and protests by health workers, teachers, nurses, and electrical workers.

Fujimori has backed repression against workers and peasants. Blanco said that when there is a peasant strike the government "declares a state of emergency in the whole zone, claiming that Sendero Luminoso is there."

"What they really fear," he added, "are the prospects of the mass movement."

Many peasants in Peru are forced into growing coca leaf, which is the raw material for producing cocaine, because they cannot scratch a living out of other crops. "The prices they get for basic food crops like beans or corn are so low," he said, "that they cannot afford to plant."

Peasants need government aid, Blanco concluded. "If Bush were really serious about stopping drugs, they first thing he would do is cancel Peru's foreign debt."

Protests by farmers sweep Canada

Continued from front page

speakers supported the farmers' demand for an immediate emergency payment to grain farmers, but did not put forward any other solutions to the farm crisis.

Proclaiming "we have to export in order to survive," Mayer tried to get farmers to support the Canadian government's chauvinist campaign, one that goes hand in hand with Washington's, against the farm subsidies used by European capitalists.

Working farmers are bearing the brunt of a crisis in the world capitalist market for agricultural products, part of the general economic crisis of world capitalism.

According to a recent report by the Canadian House of Commons agriculture committee, some 50,000 farmers, about one-fifth of Canadian farmers, are in danger of losing control of their farms.

Land in hands of banks

The amount of farmland held by banks, insurance companies, and other major lenders has increased nationwide by 63 percent in the past three years. Seventy percent of that seized land is in Saskatchewan, the major grain-producing province.

This year farmers will depend on federal and provincial aid programs for about 85 percent of their net income. Even with that aid, the average farm family will earn only \$13,000 after expenses. The biggest farmers get the bulk of the aid, leaving the real incomes of working farmers considerably less.

At the Winnipeg rally, Rab Weibe, a Winkler area farmer and rally organizer, described the extreme conditions that farmers are facing. "On my farm in 1990 for every acre sowed, I invested up to \$200 and hoped that drought would not hit me, or flood, or frost, or extreme heat would not burn my crop," stated Weibe. "In the fall, I will harvest my crop realizing a net loss of \$70 an acre. On a 1,000 acre grain farm, this would represent a loss of \$70,000 in one year."

He gave several examples of what farmers receive for what they produce: Bran cereal sells at \$3.59, but the farmer's share is 4.2 cents; and for Ritz crackers at \$2.59, farmers receive only 1.9 cents. To underline the point, farmers at the rally were selling loaves of bread for four cents.

Leann Knutson, a farmer from Ashville, described the plight of working farmers to the rally. "The government considers a net income of \$18,000 per year poverty. It also says the average family of four needs an income of \$25,000 per year just for living expenses."

"In 1989, the average of all the farms in Manitoba had net incomes of just \$16,000," he pointed out. "Out of this 'net income' we must make our principal payments on the farm, land, equipment, buildings, and our homes. It is not unusual for these payments to be in the tens of thousands of dollars. It is for this very reason that we need cash and not more programs."

Socialist supports farmers' action

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — Joe Young, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Toronto, participated in the protest by farmers held in Winnipeg October 9. Young is an aircraft cleaner at Air Canada and a member of the International Association of Machinists. In an interview he expressed his support for the demand of an immediate cash payment of \$30 an acre to provide relief for working farmers, who are most threatened by the grain price squeeze on their incomes.

He also explained, "There must be an immediate moratorium on farm foreclosures. Farmers need low-cost credit and guaranteed markets for their products at prices that will guarantee them a decent standard of living."

"Working farmers worldwide have a common interest to unite against their common exploiters — the banks, the big food trusts, and farm implement manufacturers. They have no interest in backing either free trade or protectionist schemes put forward by capitalist profiteers. Instead farmers in Canada, the United States, Europe, and the semicolonial world need to unite in a common struggle to defend their common interests."

"In fighting for a decent income and security of tenure," he said, "working

The main demand of the rally was an immediate \$30 an acre cash payment by the government to all grain farmers. It was estimated that this would cost \$1.3 billion. Because this would go to all farmers based on their total acreage, the biggest and most financially secure farmers would benefit the most.

Capitalist trade wars

One of the issues raised at the Winnipeg rally was the trade wars between U.S., Canadian, European, and other capitalist wheat traders, which have contributed to the low prices for wheat worldwide.

Until a decade ago, Europe was a net importer of grain. In 1988 it had net exports of 22 million metric tons. During the same period, U.S. and Canadian wheat exports fell from 131 million metric tons to 119 million.

The European Common Market now stores close to one million metric tons of beef in warehouses, as well as 17 million metric tons of grain, and 380,000 metric tons of butter. The U.S. and Canadian governments and grain trading companies stockpile similar huge surpluses.

This "glut" of agricultural products is only a capitalist glut. Famine, malnutrition, and deaths from starvation are more widespread than ever. But these "surplus" products sit rotting in warehouses because they cannot be

sold at a profit. Hundreds of tons of so-called surplus food is simply dumped into the sea.

John Beckman, a farmer from Killarny, argued that "farmers everywhere, European, American, Canadian, Australian or whatever, have the right to make a good living with the sense of dignity and self-worth that farming should engender. They cannot do that until they can make enough to pay their bills plus reasonable profit."

At the same time, however, he insisted, "The Americans and the Europeans have an obsession. The American obsession is market share. The European obsession is food security. We believe that the cost of this trade war to the main antagonists is such, that a nation such as Canada, with a reputation of being able to compromise within our own land, should be able to broker some solution between the Americans and Europeans."

Attempt to pit farmers against workers

Many farmers at the rally were concerned about a grainhandlers strike at Thunder Bay, Ontario, where grain is loaded onto ships. The strike had been tying up the movement of grain toward the east and overseas for a week. When Grains and Oil Seeds Minister Mayer proclaimed to the rally, "We have no intention of seeing this work stoppage in Thunder Bay prevent us from making a sale to one of our major customers, namely the

Soviet Union, this fall," he received loud applause.

On October 10, the Canadian government adopted a back-to-work law ordering the grainhandlers to end their strike and appointing a mediator with the power to impose contract terms. The grainhandlers union leadership directed the union members to respect the law and they went back to work.

That same day, the federal government's response to farmers' demands were announced: an \$800 million program, \$700 million of which would go to grain farmers, hardly more than half of what was demanded as short-term relief. The money would not be available until the spring and it was not clear how it would be distributed.

The government used the announcement of the aid to pit workers against farmers. Federal Agriculture Minister William McKnight said the aid to farmers would be paid for by tax increases and social service cuts. "Sacrifices will be required to protect our farmers," he said.

Further protests are planned in Saskatchewan and in Alberta. Andy Clements, a working farmer from Belmont, Manitoba, summed up the mood of many: "We're tired of just yelling," he said. "We want to organize and show the people that we're serious about what we're talking about here."

ANC: violence caused by apartheid regime

Continued from front page

said, "is overwhelming and such evidence is accumulating."

South African Congress of Trade Unions (COSATU) leader Jay Naidoo said the government had completed only five successful criminal prosecutions in 5,000 politically related murders in recent years. He called the lack of government action "absolutely disgraceful."

The signing of the peace accord marked a step forward in the ANC's campaign to win more political space for revolutionary mobilizations on the part of working people. The more than 20 political organizations signing the pact agreed to not resort to violent attacks against opponents, among other measures.

Part of the drive on the part of the ANC to unite opponents of apartheid has been steps taken by the organization to forge political ties with political groups in the country such as the Pan-Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organization.

At an October 25-27 meeting, the three organizations, plus the South African Communist Party and the South African Council of Churches, will discuss points of agreement to bring into future talks with the government.

This "patriotic front" is expected to press the demand for a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one person, one vote.

The ANC is also seeking bilateral talks

with the governing National Party, the previously all-white Democratic Party, Inkatha, and political parties in the nominally independent "homelands", ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa said in an October 15 statement.

"These talks are being initiated with a view towards the convening of the all-party congress as soon as is possible, in line with the desire of the majority of South Africans," the statement said.

Building the ANC

Mandela and other ANC leaders have stressed that widening the struggle for a democratic South African republic can only be done on the basis of drawing millions into political action and building a strong organization.

Central to this is winning toilers in rural areas, whites, and those the regime has classified as 'Coloured' and 'Asian' — more commonly called Indians — to the ranks and leadership of the ANC.

In a speech to a regional congress of the ANC in Mitchell's Plain near Cape Town Mandela warned that the National Party was "challenging us in our own constituency" in winning Coloured and Indian members. Of the country's 39 million people, 30 million are Blacks and five million are whites.

Since the National Party began admitting members other than whites 1,000 Coloureds had joined in Mitchell's Plain, Mandela reported. He urged the delegates to select a new leadership more reflective of the composition of the Western Cape, an area with a higher percentage of Coloureds than the rest of the country.

At a series of late September and early October conferences and public speeches Mandela also reaffirmed the revolutionary democratic organization's commitment to fight for nationalization of certain sectors of

the economy. The ANC advocates the step as a means to break out of the "cycle of over-privilege and under-privilege," he told a mid-October conference according to the London *Guardian*. At the meeting ANC leaders debated the feasibility of nationalization with lawyers from various countries.

"Each white child still gets five times as much spent on his or her education as a Black child does. The per capita expenditure by the state on health care for the whites is still four times more than for Blacks," Mandela said, pointing to just a few of the inequalities resulting from apartheid.

In a speech in Durban he told a group of small-business owners the ANC "has no ideological attachment to nationalization, but it's the only effective way to ensure there's an equal distribution of wealth. We say to the business community: 'If you have a better alternative tell us, and if it's effective we'll abandon nationalization.'"

The ANC has been publicly debating the merits of nationalization in its monthly magazine *Mayibuye*. Nationalization of banking, monopoly industry, and mining are advocated in the Freedom Charter, a document adopted by the ANC that was the product of a broadly-attended Congress of the People held near Johannesburg in 1955.

"This is not a good way if you want capital to come into your country. You must not say these things," German Deputy Economic Cooperation Minister Michaela Geiger told the ANC.

Geiger's remarks were not only aimed at Mandela's speeches but at Cyril Ramaphosa's statement that the ANC would "not be keen" to honor foreign loans granted to the apartheid regime.

Anglo American, the gold mining company, said it was disappointed with Mandela's statements and called them "archaic and bankrupt."

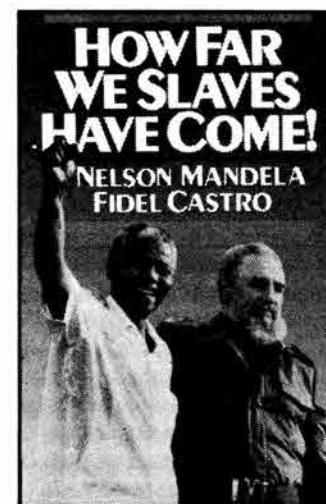
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These speeches by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela at July 26, 1991, celebration in Cuba are essential reading for all fighters who want to rid the earth of racism and exploitation and chart a road forward for all humanity.

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FLORIDA

Miami

No More Cuts! Education is Our Right! Students, Teachers, and Parents Speak Out! Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Sexual Harassment, the Supreme Court, and the Fight to Defend Democratic Rights: The Meaning of the Clarence Thomas Debate. Speaker: Lucille Robbins, member, International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1199, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Thomas Nomination and the Fight Against Sexual Harassment. Speaker: Maurice Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines city council; member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 50N. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

The Capitalist Crisis and the Fight for Independent Labor Political Action. Speaker: Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines mayor, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

An Action Program for Workers and Farmers to Confront the Deepening Economic Crisis. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

Crisis in the Middle East: What is the Road Forward for the Palestinian People. Sat., Nov.

9, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Cuba and South Africa. Speakers: Seth Galinsky, reporter for the *Militant*; Colin Waters, vice-president, Caribbean Student Organization, NJIT. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Sexual Harassment and the Clarence Thomas Confirmation. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Who Profits? How Best to Fight It? Speakers: Elizabeth Kealy, Young Socialist Alliance, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 22; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. 140 S. 40th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cops, Courts, and Political Prisoners. A panel discussion. Representatives of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Socialist Workers Party, and other victims of police frame-ups. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The 1917 Russian Revolution: Its Contribution to the Forward March of Working

U.S. urges Moscow austerity

Continued from front page

lion to Moscow. French banks are in second place with loans totaling \$3.6 billion. Washington's loans are significantly less.

Bonn, worried about the safety of its huge loans, wants the United States and other governments to increase their financial aid to the Soviets. The *New York Times* reported that the German government is "frustrated" by Washington's unwillingness to go along.

While unable to agree on financial aid or debt relief, the imperialist powers were able to agree on the anti-working-class measures they want the Soviet government to take to pave the way for greater integration into the world capitalist economy.

In a one-page communiqué issued October 13, the seven called for austerity measures, a single currency for all of the Soviet Union including the newly independent republics, and a single central bank. They also insisted that the Soviet Union, or the republics, agree to honor the union's foreign debts. Implicit in the Group of Seven's plans are moves to rapid privatization of state-owned industry and farmland.

As a step toward accomplishing this, the group "strongly endorsed" the signing of a new economic cooperation treaty between the Soviet republics. Since the failed August coup the bureaucratic regimes in the Soviet republics have been haggling over how to reorganize the economic and governmental structures in the country.

Yavlinsky told the meeting that the support of the seven was necessary to win approval of the pact. He admitted that Soviet leaders do not have enough authority or support among working people to carry out the favored changes without provoking explosive social protests.

One obstacle to the proposed Soviet economic pact is the opposition from officials in the Ukraine. Nearly a fifth of the total population of the Soviet Union lives in the Ukraine, which is second only to the Russian republic in industrial production. Many in the Ukrainian government want to create their own currency and form a Ukrainian army.

Even if the attempts to form some kind of Soviet economic union — with or without the Ukraine — are successful, the problems will deepen.

Oleg Bogomolov, economic adviser to Yeltsin, is pessimistic about the pact. "I'm not sure it will be accepted by the republics and the parliaments of the republics," he said. "And if it is accepted, it is very likely it will not be implemented."

Only 8 of the 12 republics signed the agreement October 18.

In a preview of what the Group of Seven has in store for workers and farmers, Yeltsin announced October 14 a proposal for relaxing state price controls. He said that it was necessary to end practically all remaining subsidies on products. Removing the price controls could cause prices to soar 10-fold.

"We know it will be hard on the people," Yeltsin said.

But the bureaucratic caste in power is not strong enough to crush the kind of resistance that would result from implementing the austerity and privatization measures favored by the Group of Seven, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. The *New York Times* worries that the "transition to a market economy could be slowed" by what it characterizes as the "explosive social tensions" that would result.

A return to private ownership of the means of production in the Soviet Union — capitalism — can only be done by direct imperialist intervention which would have to take on and defeat the working class.

People. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

BRITAIN

London

Cuba at the Crossroads. Eyewitness Report and Slideshow. Speaker: Anne Howie, member Amalgamated Engineering Union, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE1 8LL. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Manchester

Malcolm X in Today's World. Video showing and speaker. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill, M4 4AA. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

The Cuban Revolution and the World Fight for Socialism. Eyewitness report and slide show. Speakers: Jane Austin, Communist League; Dave Parkes, member Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers Union. Sat., Oct. 26, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Sheffield. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal

Farmers Mobilize Against the Crisis, the Stakes for the Workers' Movement. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League candidate for Toronto mayoralty and correspondent for the

Militant at October 9 demonstration of 7,000 farmers in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Forum ouvrière militant. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Economic Crisis: How Working People Can Fight Back. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 273-861-1399.

Vancouver

Haiti: No to the Coup — Canada, U.S. Hands Off. Video presentation: *Black Sugar*. Speaker: Tony Defilice, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 2, 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

New Zealand Rulers' Offensive and the Working Class Response. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St. Donation \$2. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Lenin's Fight Against Stalinism. 23 Majoribanks St. Donation \$2. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Socialist Workers 1991 Fund Meetings

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Birmingham

The Battle to Defeat Apartheid: African National Congress Fighters Face the Coming Challenges. Speaker: Derek Bracey, *Militant* staff writer. Sun., Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$5. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Cuba: Challenges Facing the Revolution in a Changing World. Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *New Internationalist*. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Cuba: Challenges Facing the Revolution in a Changing World. Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *New Internationalist*. Sun., Oct. 27, Reception 2 p.m.; presentation 3 p.m. SEIU Local 87 Hall, 240 Golden Gate Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Luis Madrid, editor, *Perspectiva Mundial*. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$5. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Battle to Defeat Apartheid: African National Congress Fighters Face Coming Challenges. Speaker: Derek Bracey, *Militant* staff writer. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 605

Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, *Militant* staff writer. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, *Militant* staff writer. Sat., Oct. 26. Reception 6:30 p.m.; presentation 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Greg McCartan, editor of the *Militant*. Sat., Oct. 26. Reception 6:30 p.m.; presentation 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Chris Hoepfner, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 26. Reception 6:30 p.m.; presentation 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

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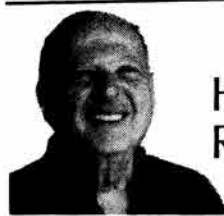
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Win the gold cup — "We've done a good job on the boat people; a few yacht people wouldn't hurt." — A U.S. Immigration official on



Harry Ring

the new policy of offering visas and quick green cards for those with \$1 million or more to invest.

They don't grasp new freedom — Daimler-Benz took over part of a nationalized East German truck company and, to reduce the work

force, said husbands and wives both could no longer work there. The manager says that, to his surprise, "A whole lot of these wives then turned around and sent their husbands home."

Puerto Rico is front-runner — This past spring, 5.28 percent of homeowners fell 30 days or more behind in their mortgage payments. In Puerto Rico, the rate was double that average. The head of the mortgage bankers association advised, "Frankly, we expect things to get worse before they get better."

Gave him a chance to relax — In Scotland's Perth Prison, Alan McGuire, 21, was found seriously ill in his cell. After a five-hour delay, he

was taken to a hospital where he died the next day, reportedly of a heart infection and a stroke. A prison medical consultant assured that the delay did not contribute to McGuire's death.

The morality boys — "I have very serious questions about whether the central bank should be sponsoring and supporting deception." — Alan Greenspan, chair of the Fed, which rejected a proposal to use undercover investigators to nail mortgage lenders who discriminate.

A touch of class — A *New York Times* fashion supplement features, "Clothes that work. Power dressing has given way to proletarian touches for a new streetwise style." Like: a distressed-leather jacket, \$425;

rayon shirt, \$155; cotton trousers, \$350; work-style plaid wool jacket, \$750.

Standard ethics — Declaring it a breach of their ethics and, possibly, of federal law, Stanford University officials scrapped a draft plan to offer free vacations to doctors who refer heart patients to the university hospital. The ethical standards concern came after a rival cardiologist leaked the plan.

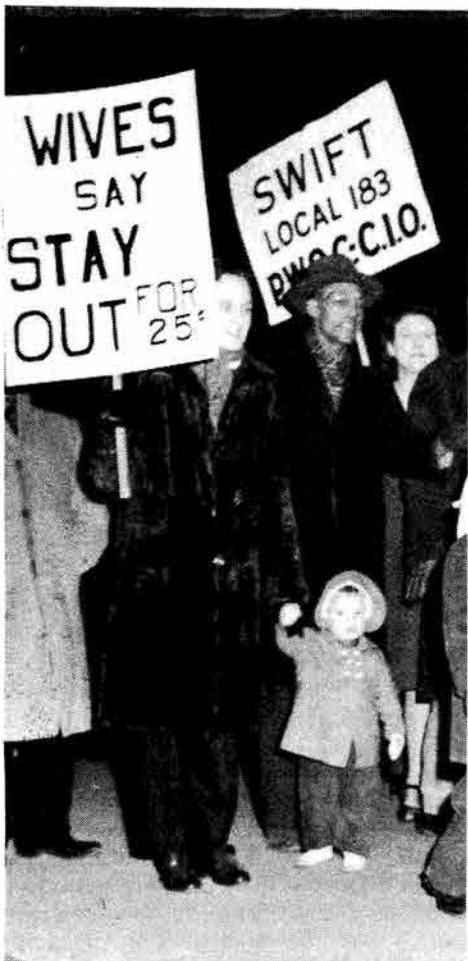
If their ethics matched their chutzpah — Meanwhile, Stanford asked the feds for \$10 million for the extra expense of checking fraud allegations on its government research swindle sheets. In a decade, yachting, partying, etc., added an

estimated \$200 million to the university's research tabs.

Leave cans on front porch — The \$7.5 billion-a-year pet food industry is pushing gourmet cuisine (Sea food platter in prawn jelly). Opined one vet, "If you can afford it, there's nothing wrong with it. There's nothing wrong with driving a BMW. If people need the prestige, it probably won't hurt the animal."

Greenmail — Probably not atypically, Los Angeles households are inundated with 170 pounds of junk mail a year. An industry spokesperson observed that such mail is a boon to the environment because, with it, people stay home and shop by phone.

What course needed for labor movement today?



Striking meat-packers. Labor battles in '30s showed potential for a labor party.

Continued from Page 4

ers, instead of leaving both the workers and the farmers under petty-bourgeois leadership that kept them captives of the parties of industrial, banking, and landed capital."

The pitfalls Dobbs warned against were proven true. As in the 1880s, middle-class layers were able to take the leadership of the party, water down its working-class program and perspectives, and ultimately lead it back into the dead end of capitalist politics.

Communists in the United States at the time were politically inexperienced and misinterpreted the real lessons from the Russian Revolution as it related to political action. They took a sectarian stance and did not participate in these labor party developments.

1930s labor upsurge

In the 1930s major class-struggle battles once again erupted as workers successfully fought to form industrial unions in the United States. The January 1937 sit-down strike at the General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan, and other massive battles helped consolidate the newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) among autoworkers and paved the way for winning union contracts in steel.

In the midst of the Great Depression the CIO developed as a social movement and attracted tens of millions of workers — in and out of the unions — to its banner.

The giant step of organizing on an industrywide basis gave the labor movement new and profound strength. Tremendous potential existed to lead this fight to independent working-class political action. Workers in the United States were being affected by the labor radicalization unfolding in Western Europe from massive strikes in France to civil war in Spain.

In May 1937, in a move to crush a strike at the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago, cops opened fire on peaceful demonstrators, killing ten workers and wounding scores. Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt, who attempted to project a public image of being pro-labor, backed this strike-breaking move by refusing to intervene on the side of the workers.

This experience, combined with the onset of a new economic recession, made it clear to workers that the worst effects of the depression were far from over, and deepened sentiment among rank-and-file union militants for the creation of a labor party.

The newly formed United Automobile Workers union had already unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the formation of a national labor party at its May 1936 convention.

John Lewis, who had split from the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to initiate the CIO, attempted from the start to keep this new organization within the confines of capitalist politics. Lewis started a formation called Labor's Non-Partisan League (LNPL), which was presented as a move towards independent labor political action but in reality was a vehicle to organize union support for Roosevelt and the other Democrats in the 1936 presidential elections.

In New York, the Communist Party (CP) and social democrats organized the American Labor Party as a special wing of the LNPL to corral militant workers — who thought they had their own party — into voting for Roosevelt. As in the Soviet Union during the 1920s, the communist workers in the United States had been hounded out of the CP. The party slavishly followed Moscow's dictates, flip-flopping from opposition to the Democrats to all-out support, depending on the Soviet regime's foreign policy needs of the day.

After the 1937 massacre at the Republic Steel plant in Chicago, Lewis was forced to distance himself somewhat from Roosevelt and the Democrats. That year he publicly raised the possibility that labor and farmers could build an alliance through their own political party.

In the late 1930s inter-imperialist competition had broken out into open warfare. Roosevelt began a campaign to draw the United States into the war and won the support of the trade union officialdom through a barrage of jingoistic propaganda.

By the time of the 1940 presidential elections, Lewis was openly denouncing Roosevelt as having "broken faith" with the workers. The time was ripe and the sentiment strong among rank-and-file workers who would have responded to a call to launch a labor party based on the power of the CIO's industrial union base. Lewis, however, holding true to his class-collaborationist perspective, shied away from this course and instead issued a call to support the Republican presidential candidate, Wendell Willkie.

The capitulation by union officials, and the role played by the CP and other currents in the workers' movement that fell in behind Washington's war drive, closed off the chance for the gains in the 1930s to be realized in a struggle for political power.

Instead a terrible price was paid by working people the world over: the tens of millions killed in World War II and the decades of imperialist exploitation and oppression since then.

The communist movement during these years was a relatively small force in comparison to the misnamed Communist Party, which used its strong influence in the union movement to support capitalist party politicians.

Communists expelled from the CP formed the Communist League, recruiting many new fighters from the labor struggles to its ranks. The CL, after a series of fusions and splits with workers parties in the 1930s, later became the Socialist Workers Party.

In the early 1930s communists did not automatically call for the formation of a labor party because neither the explosive social struggles were propelling the trade unions in that direction nor were the unions transformed enough that the party could be anything but reformist.

Farrell Dobbs, writing in *Teamster Politics*, explained, "The social crisis was impelling [workers] in one swift leap from a generally atomized state toward union organization in advanced industrial form. And that dynamic was still operative. It was thus possible that in the struggles to come the workers could make another big jump, this time to revolutionary politics."

The CIO movement arose with great rapidity, drawing millions into the unions. However, most workers were just entering

into political life and had not yet gone through enough experiences and class combat to be won directly to communist movement. Communists shifted their slogans and tactics accordingly, calling for the formation of a labor party based on the unions. Communists would both fight for this party to adopt an anticapitalist program and continue to recruit revolutionary-minded fighters to what had then become the Socialist Workers Party.

Today, the economic crises and wars that are on the horizon pose the same challenges anew to the labor movement. Out of new class-struggle experiences, possibilities will open for a revolutionary workers party to help lead the labor movement to act independently in its own interests, pressing forward along its historic line of march toward political power.

Labor News in the 'Militant'

For weekly eyewitness reports on working-class struggles from the mines of South Africa to the mills and factories of North America read the *Militant*. See page 2 for subscription information.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
October 31, 1966

SAN FRANCISCO — Close to 3,000 people joined a mass counter-demonstration to a "white power" rally scheduled by American Nazi, Lincoln Rockwell. Students from San Francisco State College and longshoremen joined other anti-fascist forces at the counter-demonstration.

No one turned out in support of the Rockwell rally. After trying to speak to no one over the chants of the counter-demonstrators, Rockwell and 16 or 17 of his "storm troopers" packed up their swastikas and left.

At one point, police seized a woman anti-fascist and put her in a police van. Another middle-aged man was escorted toward the wagon, when the crowd began to yell, "Let her go!" The determination of the demonstrators finally forced the police to release the two captives.

The counter-demonstration was called by a united front of many organizations, including Students for a Democratic Society, W.E.B. DuBois Clubs, Young Socialist Alliance, Vietnam Day Committee, Progressive Labor, Student Zionist Organization and the campus Ecumenical Center.

THE MILITANT
Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

November 1, 1941

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Oct. 28 — Albert Goldman, defense counsel and defendant, began the opening statement of the defense late this afternoon, the second day

of the federal government's "seditious conspiracy" case against 28 members of the Socialist Workers Party and Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union, Local 544-CIO.

"Far from denying the revolutionary nature of our views," Goldman assured the jury, "we are going to explain those views to you and our right to propagate those views under the Bill of Rights."

[Prosecutor Victor] Anderson's speech was a brazenly frank statement that the government is prosecuting not "overt acts," but the program of the Socialist Workers Party and the ideas of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky.

"The very program of the Socialist Workers Party is a violation of the statutes," said Anderson.

"It is the position of the government in this case," said Anderson, "that proof of overt acts is not required and that the conspiracy in itself is unlawful."

The "conspiracy," it turned out, consisted of organized propagation of the ideas of the Socialist Workers Party.

At one point Anderson made an amusing slip of the tongue, referring to "the defendant, Leon Trotsky." In his own mind he had Trotsky, Lenin, Marx and Engels up before the Judge's bench.

There was scarcely a single aspect of the party's activities which Anderson did not bring into the trial as a "crime": the party's class struggle trade union policy which urges reliance on mass action rather than on arbitration; the attempts of the party to save Leon Trotsky from being assassinated; the party's agreement with the ideas and principles of the Fourth International; the party's advocacy of military training for workers under control of the trade unions and financed by the government; the party's policy of defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack, etc.

Louisiana governor's race

The strong showing by outspoken racist David Duke in the primary election for Louisiana governor reflects both the rightward shift in capitalist politics and the crisis of liberalism.

Duke, who has openly associated with racist organizations from the Ku Klux Klan to Nazi-style groups, campaigns around questions that appeal to a big layer in the middle class and among more privileged sections of the working class. Feeling squeezed, frustrated, and threatened since the onset of the capitalist crisis with the 1974-75 worldwide recession, they become open to "radical" proposals from rightist forces.

Duke and many like him claim that already victimized and oppressed layers in society, from those receiving welfare payments or occupying public housing, to working people who are Black or immigrants, are responsible for the social crisis.

Rightist probes and propaganda campaigns over the past five years have gone hand in hand with increasing assaults by the employers and the government. This includes open union-busting; widespread and brutal dispossessions of farm families; cutbacks in government social programs reflecting gains that Blacks, Latinos, and women had made; and the chipping away at democratic rights.

The end of the post World War II period of economic expansion signaled the drying up of capitalism's ability to grant significant concessions to working people, especially the worse-off sections. In the face of the billionaire ruling families' need to make working people pay for the crisis of their system, the former divergence over domestic policy between the Republican Party and the liberal wing of the Democrats not only began to narrow; their policies shifted

to the right as well. Increasingly there is wide bipartisan agreement on the need to assault the standard of living and rights of working people.

Because capitalism's economic expansion is what the liberals based their policies on, the worsening crisis has thrown liberalism into increasing ruin as well. No prominent liberals put forward even a "New Deal" approach anymore.

Many in the middle class and aristocratic layers of the class begin to identify more with "their" country, with "their" industry, and with "their" company in face of the economic crisis. They are more susceptible to national chauvinism, racism, and anti-women and other reactionary ideas. The thousands around the country who flock to increasingly provocative and violent antiabortion actions reflect this trend.

These issues should be raised in the unions for discussion and action: they pose a challenge to the labor movement as a whole. But the union bureaucracy, following the rightward drift of the liberal politicians, has led a massive retreat and turned its back on the most oppressed in the working class.

Workers and working farmers face the effects of a stagnant recovery from the recession, high levels of unemployment, farm foreclosures, and lack of access to health care and other basic needs. Millions know this is not a temporary feature of the world today.

Unions must chart a course to clearly advance the interests of the working class; regardless of the profits and prerogatives of big business. They must break from bourgeois politics, along the road of independent working-class political action. Charting a revolutionary road forward along with working people around the world is the only possible answer to the wars and economic crisis capitalism has in store for humanity.

Haiti, the coup, and intervention

The leaders and backers of the coup in Haiti claim they overthrew Jean-Bertrand Aristide because he was becoming dictatorial. While the military roamed the streets attacking working-class neighborhoods, the National Assembly went through the shameful pretense of "electing" an acting president.

Working people overwhelmingly backed Aristide's election last year and continued to press their demands after his inauguration. Thousands of poor peasants demanded land. Many fought for literacy programs. Workers fought for unions and higher wages. Students took to the streets to protest foreign interference.

But Haiti's ruling rich want no restrictions on their ability to make millions through the superexploitation of the Haitian people. They couldn't contain their joy at Aristide's overthrow, or their class hatred of the country's workers and peasants.

After first condemning the coup, Washington and its allies in the Organization of American States (OAS) quickly adjusted their position. They demanded a compromise: Aristide had to agree to stop making statements or taking actions that could be seen as encouragement to mass struggles; he had to accept a symbolic presidency — only then would the U.S. government push for his reinstatement.

Like their junior partners in Haiti, the U.S. rulers' main concern is stability for their investments and their share of the booty. But the U.S.-endorsed compromise, which was accepted by Aristide, was too much for the coup supporters.

Tens of thousands in the U.S. and elsewhere have joined demonstrations to protest the coup and demand Aristide's return.

Over the last few weeks, as frustration has mounted over

the seeming success of Aristide's ouster, the focus of some of the demonstrations has shifted from solidarity with the struggle of the Haitian people, to demands that Washington, Ottawa, and the OAS lead an economic boycott of Haiti. Some opponents of the coup even call for direct military intervention.

But the U.S. government and its allies are no friends of Haitian working people. It was Washington that armed, backed, and financed the Duvalier family dictatorship for decades, until it was overthrown by a massive uprising in 1986. U.S. corporations make fat profits by paying Haitian workers starvation wages. They don't really care what individual is in the government, as long as their interests are guaranteed. Foreign intervention in Haiti would not advance the fight of working people; it would be a weapon against their struggle for land, workers' rights, and justice.

The Cuban government condemned the coup and called for the reinstatement of Aristide. The Cubans also warned that the "creation of a multinational force under the flag of the OAS or the UN would mean placing an international helmet on Yankee marines and setting a dangerous precedent for future actions."

Working people and the labor movement around the world should join the protests of the coup and oppose foreign intervention by Washington or the OAS. The struggle of Haitian workers and peasants toppled earlier dictatorships. A similar battle today, backed by working people around the globe, is the only way to advance the fight against exploitation and oppression.

Unable to resolve Haiti's economic crisis and hated by the country's workers and farmers, the coup-imposed government will be toppled, just like Duvalier before.

Blow to farm workers' union

In a blow to the rights of all working people, the U.S. Supreme Court on October 8 let stand a lower court decision requiring the United Farm Workers union (UFW) to pay \$2.3 million in "damages" to Maggio, Inc., a major lettuce grower in California's Imperial Valley.

This case stems from a bitterly fought 1979 farm workers' strike in which one unionist was killed and others were wounded by gunfire while on the picketline. Maggio originally won this award in 1986 when a judge ruled that the union had created "a climate of violence" that prevented the company from recruiting enough scabs to harvest its crops.

The payment of this award will be "devastating to the UFW," stated union lawyer Dianna Lyons.

The biased nature of this ruling is further illustrated by the fact that both the wife and son of the trial judge worked as scabs for Maggio during the strike. The union wasn't even allowed to appeal the case until it had deposited money to cover the damage award in a bank.

This reactionary ruling marks the latest in a series of successes scored by the employers in using the courts to financially cripple unions involved in militant strike actions. In April 1988 an Arizona court ordered the UFW to pay \$5.4 million to Bruce Church Inc., another major lettuce grower, claiming the union had conducted an illegal boycott

of its product. This ruling also stemmed from a 1979 strike the UFW was forced to carry out against Bruce Church's refusal to renew its union contracts.

The United Mine Workers union, which won an important victory through its 11-month strike in 1989 against a union-busting drive by Pittston Coal, also faced huge fines — \$53 million — imposed by the courts.

Court fines imposed on unions establish a dangerous precedent that threatens every fight where workers seek to defend their union against the employer's attacks. They pose a special threat to superexploited workers, such as the large immigrant work force that makes up a big percentage of farm worker and garment unions.

These decisions illustrate the true nature of the U.S. "justice" system. It is a tool to defend the class interests of the employers in their drive to weaken and destroy unions.

Organized labor must join together in opposing these reactionary court decisions. A response by the labor movement is doubly important in the case of farm workers who are struggling to gain a minimum of union organization. The punitive rulings are a blow to their ability to reach out to other working people and forge greater unity within the union movement.

In the Letters column this week, Marty Michaels takes issue with the article by Estelle DeBates entitled "Abortion: Is it the 'killing of unborn babies?'" that appeared in the *Militant* September 27.

As DeBates explained in the article, the main argument put forward by the antiabortion forces is that abortion is murder. They base their appeal on the claim that a fetus is a baby.

In her article DeBates states "there is no such thing as an unborn baby; to be a baby you must be born." Michaels writes this reasoning is "very irresponsible."

The terms fetus and baby are not synonymous. They are specific terms that describe specific things. One need not go farther than the dictionary to get their definitions. A fetus is defined as "an unborn or unhatched vertebrate... a developing human." A baby, on the other hand, is defined as "an extremely young child; infant."

Far from being irresponsible, this statement by DeBates is simply a fact. What a woman carries during a pregnancy is a fetus. If she so chooses, it can become a baby.

DeBates also points out that those who defend a woman's right to choose abortion often counter this lie with arguments about a fetus being nothing but a clump of cells, which is

FROM OUR READERS

also an unscientific argument. Countering opponents of abortion rights with this line does nothing to help get to the only political framework possible around which the discussion on abortion rights should take place: that the right to abortion is fundamental to women's equality.

The letter by Michaels represents some of the dangers of not being scientific and objective in answering the charge that abortion is murder. While agreeing that the framework for the discussion on abortion must be women's rights, Michaels actually falls into the trap of determining "when life begins." He starts by stating that in early pregnancy the fetus "really is little more than a clump of cells" but that later, "around 27 weeks, the fetus is viable — it has lungs and organs developed to the point that it could live outside the woman's body."

In any premature birth at 27 weeks the baby must be put in conditions similar to a womb in order to live — if the mother can afford to do so. They don't just get smacked on the bottom and start crying, breathing, and eating.

Michaels ends up concentrating on whether the fetus is a human life rather than on the life and rights of the woman. Another example of why DeBates' approach is politically stronger is because it is based on fact. Michaels winds up saying the fact that most abortions are done in the first trimester is a good argument to use against rightist propaganda. Michaels' point is that because the fetus is only a clump of cells at this stage it is early enough that the "gravest decisions need not even be a factor." Not mentioning that it is safer for a woman to have an abortion in the first trimester, Michaels ends up giving a lot of ground to antiabortion arguments. If a fetus is a "baby" at 27 weeks, why not at 20 weeks? Later in the letter Michaels "can't help but think of the many babies that are born prematurely."

But what does Michaels' definition of — "viability" or anyone else's, for that matter — tell us about the rights of a woman?

A fetus is a potential human life — at any stage of its development. Denying or trying to qualify this reality only weakens getting to the real point. Women are human beings, who as long as they remain slaves to their own child-bearing capabilities cannot fully participate in the forward march of humanity. It is in the interest of working people to support a woman's right to choose abortion with no qualifications and to support demands that enable women who choose to have children to be able to care for them in the manner deserving of every human being.

* * *

Militant staff writer Derek Bracey organizes a team of supporters who volunteer several hours each week entering into the computers new subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'Internationale*.

Ethel Lobman, who leads the team, reports they have not only been busy due to the success of the international circulation campaign but also with renewal forms sent in from subscribers.

Subscribers to the *Militant* receive notices with their last 4 issues. The letters include renewal rates and a special offer of \$2 off the cover price of any of the eight issues of *New International* for renewals of six months or longer. The *New International* magazine's book-length format allows more in-depth analysis and discussion of major topics covered in the *Militant*.

Some readers who have recently renewed their subscriptions have taken the time to jot us a note. "Please renew for another six months," writes a reader from California. "I rely on the *Militant* to find out what's happening in Cuba, South Africa, and the Soviet Union. I thought Estelle DeBates' article on abortion was excellent — she touched on all the important issues. I especially enjoy the writing of Harry Ring and Doug Jenness. Thanks for coverage on the obvious frame-up of Mark Curtis (hope he is paroled soon!) and police brutality in the U.S. Keep up the good work. Working people need to know the truth and the *Militant* is the only game in town."

Rail workers should oppose crew size reductions

BY SUSAN SKINNER

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Members of the United Transportation Union in the Southern region of the Burlington Northern Railroad are voting on whether or not to modify our crew consist agreement. Consist agreements establish the number of workers required on a crew to switch or operate trains. Results of the vote, being conducted by mail, are expected October 23.

The railroad companies have been on a drive to cut back the work force. In the last ten years the number of railroad workers has been cut in half. No matter how they are dressed up, the Burlington Northern Railroad (BN) agreements and similar ones being considered on other railroads are simply the latest plan to cut more jobs. That's why United Transportation Union (UTU) members at Union Pacific voted down an almost identical consist last year; and why we

In an attempt to get rail workers to vote for such drastic cuts in jobs and working conditions, the company is offering a \$1,000 lump sum signing bonus and \$60,000 for a voluntary severance payoff. Trainmen displaced as a result would be put on a reserve board for the life of the agreement. The reserve board pays 75 percent of a basic five-day week or 95 percent of last year's wages, whichever is greater. No workers could remain on reserve status if they would have been unable to hold a job under the old agreement. Railroad officials are cutting as many jobs as possible now before the new agreement would take effect, if approved. Several switchmen's jobs were cut in my yard this week.

The previous consist agreements cut a crew member by attrition and established a second-class status for new hires called "unprotected employees." Unprotected workers are paid less and have less rights. For example, protected workers receive productivity bonuses each year for working on "short crews," but unprotected workers do not. The new agreement maintains this division, while speeding up the process of eliminating jobs.

This proposal boils down to fewer workers doing more work for less pay. If enacted — whether by an arbitrator or by our own vote — it will be a tremendous blow against rail workers and our union.

We will have lost more ground, which is harder to regain later. We will have fewer members and less unity. This puts us in a worse position to fight in the future.

The union officials have filed a suit challenging the PEB ruling that orders renegotiating crew sizes. The union tops are encouraging workers to vote for the new crew consist agreement as the only alternative to forced arbitration if the legal challenge fails. In a letter to UTU members at BN, UTU general chairman A.M. Lankford called the court action "our only hope now to save our present crew consist agreement."

They warn that the likely model for arbitration would be the Chicago and North Western agreement. That agreement made the same crew reductions, but did not establish a reserve board for current employees or a productivity bonus for protected workers.

Many UTU members are planning to vote for the proposed cuts out of fear of a worse deal from forced arbitration. Many say we can save our jobs through the reserve board but if the dispute goes to arbitration workers will lose their jobs alto-

gether. They get us to vote for pay cuts and job losses by convincing us to accept the framework of the company and union officials that some concessions are necessary. As with previous agreements, we would be selling out our future and the jobs of future workers, hoping to hold on to some temporary crumbs for ourselves now. Going along with concession demands in 1980 and 1985, not only did not stop the cuts, but opened the union up to more company demands. The only real way to reverse this trend is for our union to begin to wage a fight against the rail bosses and, if needed, stand up to their government as well.

For years the union officials have told us to rely on writing letters to Congressmen or to wait for arbitrator's decisions, court rulings, and presidential board recommendations. We lost every time. This course, one that objectively aims at collaborating with the employers to help them boost their profits at our expense, has led to weakening the union. The demand to cut back on crew sizes is but one more setback due to this course and to the officials doing everything they can to block the use of real union power in our fight.

A glimpse of the potential power of the mobilized ranks was shown last April when all eight of our unions went on strike. But the officialdom has neither the desire, capacity, nor stomach to lead a fight against the employers or the government. They fear such united action would not only challenge the bosses but open up the union to more rank-and-file democracy and solidarity and further our ability to rely on our own independent strength.

Although in a much weakened position our unions can reach out for support to fight these new concession demands. Many working people are concerned about safety and the number of rail accidents, particularly those involving hazardous materials. Running longer trains with smaller crews is not a popular idea. Some rail unions held public rallies last spring to press for rejection of the company proposals. They were joined by other workers and unions. This is a good example of actions we can take to explain our case and win support.

Susan Skinner is a switchman in the Birmingham yard at Burlington Northern Railroad. She is a member of United Transportation Union Local 847.

UNION TALK

should vote it down today.

The current round of concession demands comes out of the latest union contract covering 235,000 railroad workers.

Despite a determination by the ranks to resist giving more concessions, officials ordered us back to work when Congress declared the 19-hour strike "illegal" April 18. When the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) sided with the company's takeback demands in July, the union officialdom once again refused to organize a fight.

The PEB imposed a contract and decreed that local crew consist agreements be renegotiated. The board ruled that if the rail companies and unions do not reach agreement by the end of October, crew sizes will be established by an arbitrator and take affect at the end of the year.

The new proposal by BN would cut the standard crew from an engineer, conductor, and two brakemen, to an engineer, conductor, and one brakeman. Crews on many freight trains would be reduced to an engineer and conductor only! Current rules requiring additional crew members on longer trains would be eliminated. All this adds up to smaller crews running larger trains further, contributing to increasingly unsafe working conditions.

LETTERS

Blueprint for fascism

Please review Pat Robertson's book *The New World Order*. I think the book facades to be Christian, but really is a blueprint for American Fascism. The book is getting wide circulation, and its lies should be answered.

Gary Ahl
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Babies and abortion

I have been a regular reader of the *Militant* for three years and have for the most part been continually impressed by the journalistic and editorial integrity of articles and editorials. I am disturbed, however, with the content and tone of the "As I See It" column on abortion rights that appeared in the September 27 issue.

The column muddies several points that must indeed be discussed and clarified.

For example, DeBates writes that "there is no such thing as an unborn baby; to be a baby you must be born." I understand what must have been the general line of her thinking here, i.e., that the focus of the debate should be placed and kept on the woman and her rights. But the sort of reasoning expressed in the above quote is very irresponsible. The fact is that at some point (around 27 weeks, I believe), the fetus is viable

— it has lungs and organs developed to the point that it could live outside the woman's body.

According to the column, there would be no quantitative difference between a fetus five minutes after it was conceived and five minutes before it was born. What needs to be explained is that over 90 percent of abortions take place in the first trimester of pregnancy (from six to 12 weeks), when the fetus really is little more than a clump of cells. All women should have the right to terminate a pregnancy at whatever stage they desire, but the objective fact is that the overwhelming majority are performed early enough so that the gravest decisions need not even be a factor.

DeBates goes on to say three paragraphs later that the question of when life begins cannot be the framework for a discussion of abortion rights. This is quite true; unfortunately, however, she has already proceeded to address this very issue in an unscientific way. After explaining that a fetus is not a baby until the very moment it is born (I can't help but think of the many babies that are born prematurely. Does an alarm go off after exactly nine months?), she then goes on to say that a fetus is not a clump of cells, "as some pro-choice advocates argue." It is an



embryonic human life.

DeBates deflates her entire previous argument with such a statement; it's truly a mystery to me how that phrase made it through the political editorial process.

Marty Michaels
Washington, D.C.

Appreciates 'Militant'

I've been incarcerated for 6 long years. I have 10 months to max out. Since the day I started getting the *Militant*, I've been able to see things a little more clearly and understand why this country is in the spot it is today — "meaning" wars, money problems, etc. As long as we have the *Militant* we can see things as they really are. Thank you for being there throughout the years.

A prisoner
Leesport, Pennsylvania

Enjoys prisoner letters

Enclosed is \$6 for the *Militant* Prisoner Fund. It would be more but I just got laid off for several weeks and have to reduce my expenses.

For me, letters from prisoners are the highlight of each issue of the *Militant*. Prisoners say it like it is, with total objectivity. It helps me think through what I say to coworkers and to the young peo-

ple and workers I meet selling the *Militant*.

I also remember the words from a song Bob Dylan once did: "There, but for fortune go you or I." I expect the prison population will continue to increase. For working-class victims of capitalist frame-ups and fighters against capitalist injustice, time behind prison walls can be expected.

I am inspired by the growth of *Militant* circulation in prison, which means more "study circles" in this school of revolution.

Chris Rayson
Morgantown, West Virginia

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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Curaçao unions fight austerity plan

Farmers' leader explains victory by working people against gov't moves

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

"The unions and the entire people of Curaçao have won a victory against the government," said Eugene Godfried, describing how the regime in this Dutch colony in the Caribbean was forced to back down from drastic austerity measures it had attempted to impose on working people.

Godfried, a farm leader in Curaçao, explained in a telephone interview that at the beginning of October the government of Prime Minister Maria Liberia Peters decreed a series of measures that raised taxes on most consumer goods and led to skyrocketing prices for gasoline and other essentials. Hardest hit were workers and farmers, he noted. "The price of petrol went up by 10 percent in just one week!"

When unions and other organizations protested, "the prime minister came out for an open confrontation with the unions," Godfried said.

The government, however, did not anticipate the response by working people. Demonstrations and mass rallies took place, including a two-hour silent protest action of 3,000 people October 2 in the capital city of Willemstad. The island has a population of

less than 200,000.

The unions formed a common front called Trade Union Unity and announced they would launch a general strike October 9 if the government did not withdraw the austerity measures. This brought together the two labor federations — the Chamber of Trade Unions and the General Confederation of Workers of Curaçao (CGTC) — as well as most other unaffiliated unions.

The CGTC is led by the ruling People's National Party, which has strong ties with the Christian Democratic government in Holland. "The CGTC broke with the government" on this question, said Godfried.

On the eve of the general strike, a court ruled the government had unconstitutionally passed the economic measures without consulting Parliament. A couple of days later the prime minister agreed to meet with union leaders. She then announced the cancellation of the gasoline price increases and said the other austerity measures would be put off until a meeting with unions and businessmen was held.

Tax haven for millionaires

Curaçao, just off the coast of Venezuela, is one of six Caribbean islands that make up the Netherlands Antilles. The Dutch rulers have turned this colony into a multibillion-dollar tax haven for foreign capitalists. Curaçao is a "free trade zone" where all goods are imported and exported duty-free. The colonial government advertises a "right-to-work" law.

U.S., European, and other international businessmen have raked in huge profits in the Netherlands Antilles, where they are exempt from taxes. There are more than 15,000 registered corporations on the islands, mainly U.S. companies. Thousands of these are no more than "brass plates," merely mailbox offices.

Curaçao and other Caribbean islands have become a massive financial center for major imperialist bankers. About 35 percent of all U.S. finance-related investment outside U.S. borders is located in the Netherlands Antilles, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. First American



Bankshares Inc. in Washington, D.C., part of the worldwide empire of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) that was recently exposed in a major banking scandal, is owned by Credit and Commerce American Holdings N.V. based in the Netherlands Antilles.

Working people in Curaçao and its sister islands, however, have not enjoyed any of this wealth. Workers in the oil refineries, the main industry there, have been hit by big layoffs and wage cuts over the last several years. Exxon closed its refinery in the island of Aruba in 1985, leaving 1,500 workers jobless. The refinery in Curaçao, owned by Royal Dutch/Shell and now leased by Venezuela's state oil company, has operated at half capacity; it has been the island's main employer.

Unemployment has risen to 26 percent. More than half the island's youth are jobless

and thousands of them have emigrated to Holland in search of work.

Small farmers have also been devastated by the economic crisis. Many are in debt due to steep interest rates and are being ruined by "dumping" of subsidized agricultural products from Europe. This is a result of the unequal terms of trade between the wealthy industrialized countries and the semicolonial and colonial nations.

Another consequence of these unequal economic relations is the country's debt of almost half a billion dollars owed to U.S., Dutch, and other international banks. "This means a debt of more than \$2,000 for every man, woman, and child in our country," Godfried stressed.

The People's Alliance, a coalition of political groups, unions, farmers, and other organizations, has called for an "emergency program" to deal with the economic crisis.

Demands for land reform

"We import more than 90 percent of our food and other goods from Holland and other countries," said Godfried. The People's Alliance has raised the demand of "shifting our economy away from this dependence" toward self-sufficiency. Colonial domination has kept Caribbean nations economically isolated from each other. "We need regional integration, that is, we need to develop closer economic links with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean," he said.

"Another demand is for agrarian reform," he added.

Godfried has been a leader of Kopak (Agricultural Cooperative of Curaçao), a farm organization that in 1987 spearheaded protests by farmers demanding distribution of land, better loan conditions, and other government assistance. It also fought to keep the government from closing agricultural schools. A third school is about to close.

Because of his political activities the government has harassed Godfried. "I have been under de facto house arrest since July 1989," he explained. The regime charged he had "offended the state," namely, the lieutenant governor and a commissioner of agriculture. In fact, "I have accused the political system of corruption," he said.

The regime has attempted to curtail Godfried's right to travel. In September 1988 he was deported from the Dominican Republic at the behest of the Dutch-appointed government of Curaçao. He had been invited there to meet with Dominican farm, youth, and church groups.

The protests by farmers he and others led "got thousands of people involved," Godfried remarked. "The government can never forgive me for that."



Militant/Roberto Kopeck
Curaçao farm leader Eugene Godfried

Western coal miners celebrate return to work

BY NELS J'ANTHONY,
DAVID SALNER, AND MEG HALL

SHERIDAN, Wyoming — United Mine Workers of America Local 1972 held a rally here to celebrate returning to work under a union contract after a bitter four-year struggle with Decker Coal Co. Decker is owned by Peter Kiewit and Sons and by Pacificorp.

Local 1972 president Larry Deeds chaired the rally of several hundred. He introduced union officials and activists who had made contributions to the struggle over the past several years. From the first representation election won by the UMWA in 1983, to when the company forced the union out on strike in 1987, the solidarity of the local membership was the most important factor, Deeds said. He pointed to the importance of the UMWA and broader labor solidarity in seeing them through the four-year battle that began in 1987, and included arrests, frame-ups, and firings.

In June 1998 the union made an unconditional offer to return to work. The union shifted to pursuing unfair labor practice charges against the company. Although Decker ran a scab operation the union members did not give up the fight.

The National Labor Relations Board made a number of rulings against the company beginning in November 1988. The company finally made a new contract offer that was approved 153-44 last August.

Deeds said the "casualties of the struggle" included 19 union members that the company refused to rehire and an addi-

tional 70 who elected to take a buyout with early retirement rather than return to the job. Enhanced early retirement was offered to all workers who were within the bargaining unit at the time of the 1987 strike; all except four received a \$35,000 lump sum payment and 15 fired workers received \$100,000. Of the entire workforce 128 UMWA members are back at work. Some 148 people who crossed the picket line remain on the job.

George Manoogian, president of Utility Workers Local 223 from Detroit, was introduced to speak about the role his local had played in helping the struggle succeed. Manoogian described how union workers at the Detroit Edison power company protested the company's purchase of struck coal with an in-plant campaign of arm-bands, leaflets, and petitions signed by 2,500 workers. Detroit Edison finally agreed to pressure Decker to settle the dispute.

Area railworkers, steelworkers, and AFL-CIO officials were introduced and thanked, and two Greyhound strikers from Montana received a standing ovation. Delbert Archuleta, a striking miner from Craig, Colorado, received the loudest applause.

Archuleta outlined the struggle of UMWA Local 1799 against Cyprus Minerals, which is trying to use coal from their nonunion Colorado and Utah mines to starve out the UMWA local there. Cyprus is demanding unacceptable cutbacks in health care and in benefits to widows of six miners killed at the mine. More than

15 strikers and supporters made the six-hour trip from Craig.

Deeds said a collection taken at the rally would be divided between the Craig and Greyhound strikers, noting this was the first time the Sheridan local was able to give rather than receive financial solidarity. Also, the Women's Auxiliary announced that it was donating \$200 to the Craig miners' food bank.

Cecil Roberts, UMWA international vice-president, spoke near the end of the rally. Roberts defended the contract saying, "Decker never intended for us to have a collective bargaining agreement and we got one and I'm proud of that."

After the rally several miners who had just returned to work discussed the replacement workers. These workers, and some union members who had crossed the picket line, outnumber the newly returned union miners 148-128.

Although he didn't like working with the former scabs, one union member said, "A good union person should really bring four of them to the next union meeting." He and other miners thought this was possible given the respectful attitude that existed toward Local 1972 members when they returned to work.

One union miner said that when he returned to work a foreman asked him in front of a crew that included former scabs if he didn't sometimes wonder if he'd ever work at the mine again.

"Never," the Local 1972 member replied.